

PENT COOPERATION TREA

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION
(PCT Rule 61.2)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 February 2001 (28.02.01)	To: Commissioner US Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office, PCT 2011 South Clark Place Room CP2/5C24 Arlington, VA 22202 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE in its capacity as elected Office
International application No. PCT/US00/09178	Applicant's or agent's file reference P22,816 PCT
International filing date (day/month/year) 06 April 2000 (06.04.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 April 1999 (30.04.99)
Applicant SEARFOSS, George, H., III et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

15 November 2000 (15.11.00)

in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Henrik Nyberg Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To: ALEXIS BARRON
 SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP
 2600 ARAMARK TOWER
 1101 MARKET STREET
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-2950

Aventis
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PCT SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER
 ATTEN: 431PK

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
 OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

	Date of Mailing (day/month/year)	30 AUG 2000
Applicant's or agent's file reference P22,818 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below	
International application No. PCT/US00/09178	International filing date (day/month/year) 30 APRIL 2000	
Applicant AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS PRODUCTS, INC.	ENTERED COMPUTER 10-30-00	

1. The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO

34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
 Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
 no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Further action(s): The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in rules 90 bis 1 and 90 bis 3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
 Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231
 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer
 PREMA MERTZ

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

Form PCT/ISA/220 (July 1998)★

(See notes on accompanying sheet)

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P22,818 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US00/09178	International filing date (day/month/year) 30 APRIL 2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 30 APRIL 1999
Applicant AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS PRODUCTS, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____

as suggested by the applicant.

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/64; C07K 14/435; A61K 38/16, 38/17, 48/00
 US CL :536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	BRINK et al. Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor (TNFR)-associated Factor 2A (TRAF2A), a TRAF2 Splice Variant with an Extended RING Finger Domain That Inhibits TNFR2-mediated NF- κ B Activation. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 13 February 1998, Vol. 273, No. 7, pages 4129-4134.	1-32
A	TAKEUCHI et al. Distinct Domains for Nuclear Factor- κ B Activation and Association with Tumor Necrosis Factor Signaling Proteins. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 16 August 1996, Vol. 271, No. 33, pages 19935-19942.	1-32

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents:		"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
• "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
• "B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date		"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
• "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)		"&"	document member of the same patent family
• "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means			
• "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed			

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 AUGUST 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 AUG 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
 Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

PREMA MERTZ

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/09178

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

WEST, CAS ONLINE, MEDLINE, CAPLUS

search terms:tumor necrosis factor receptor associated factors, TRAF, polypeptide, nucleic acid, DNA , polynucleotide, method, treatment, therapy, administer

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under Article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and of the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule" and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the letter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended ?

The claims only.

The description and the drawings may only be amended during international preliminary examination under Chapter II.

When ? Within 2 months from the date of transmission of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments ?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been filed, see below.

How ? Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

What documents must/may accompany the amendments ?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confounded with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under Article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

The statement should be brief, it should not exceed 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confounded with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It should not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

In what language?

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is published. The letter and any statement accompanying the amendments must be in the same language as the international application if that language is English or French; otherwise, it must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed?

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must, preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase?

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

M
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: ALEXIS BARRON
SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP
2600 ARAMARK TOWER
1101 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-2950

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing
(day/month/year)

26 FEB 2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P22,818 PCT

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority Date (day/month/year)
PCT/US00/09178	07 APRIL 2000	30 APRIL 1999

Applicant

AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS PRODUCTS, INC.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

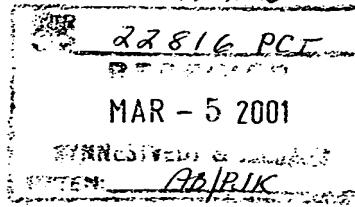
4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Aventis



Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3250

Authorized officer

PREMA MERTZ

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P22,818 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/09178	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 APRIL 2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 APRIL 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Please See Supplemental Sheet.		
Applicant AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS PRODUCTS, INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

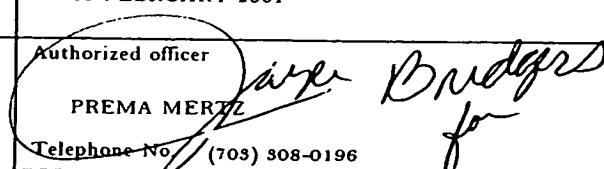
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15 NOVEMBER 2000	Date of completion of this report 13 FEBRUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer PREMA MERTZ Telephone No. (703) 308-0196
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-32</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-32</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-32</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-32 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a DNA encoding TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD, the TRAF2TR polypeptide, the TRAF2TD polypeptide, a method of inhibiting TNF alpha-regulated pathways or of inhibiting inflammatory processes involving TNF alpha by administering a TRAF2TR polypeptide or DNA capable of expressing TRAF2TR polypeptide and a method of inhibiting TNF alpha-regulated pathways by administering a TRAF2TD polypeptide or DNA capable of expressing TRAF2TD polypeptide.

Claims 1-32 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4) for industrial applicability.

————— NEW CITATIONS —————
NONE

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

CLASSIFICATION:

The International Patent Classification (IPC) and/or the National classification are as listed below:

IPC(7): C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/64; C07K 14/435; A61K 38/16, 38/17, 48/00 and US Cl.: 536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/64, C07K 14/435, A61K 38/16, 38/17, 48/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/66737 (43) International Publication Date: 9 November 2000 (09.11.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/09178		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 6 April 2000 (06.04.00)		(30) Priority Data: 60/131,940 30 April 1999 (30.04.99) US <i>30 Oct 01/30 May</i>	
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS PRODUCTS INC. [US/US]; 500 Arcola Road, Collegeville, PA 19426 (US).		(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SEARFOSS, George, H., III [US/US]; 16 Valley Drive, Birdsboro, PA 19508 (US). PAGNONI, Marco, F. [US/US]; 2029 Sterigere Street, Norristown, PA 19403 (US). IVASHCHENKO, Yuri, D. [US/US]; 11 Hampton Court, Norristown, PA 19525 (US). GUO, Kun [CN/US]; 103 Eagle Stream Drive, Apt. #21, Eagleville, PA 19403 (US). CLARK, Kenneth, L. [GB/GB]; 34 Granby Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 4AS (GB).	
(74) Agents: BARRON, Alexis et al.; Synnestvedt & Lechner LLP, 2600 Aramark Tower, 1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2950 (US).		(76) Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: VARIANTS OF TRAF2 WHICH ACT AS AN INHIBITOR OF TNF-ALPHA (TNF α) SIGNALING PATHWAY

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to variants of TRAF2 which demonstrate the ability to inhibit the TNF α signaling pathway. In particular, applicants have isolated a splice variant of TRAF2 referred to hereinafter as "TRAF2 truncated" or "TRAF2TR" and a TRAF2 expression construct with enhanced dominant negative properties, hereinafter referred to as "TRAF2 truncated-deleted" or "TRAF2TD". Both TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD have the ability to inhibit the TNF α signaling pathway and in TRAF2TD, this ability is greatly enhanced, greatly reducing the response to TNF α binding.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/09178

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/64; C07K 14/435; A61K 38/16, 38/17, 48/00
US CL :536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	BRINK et al. Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor (TNFR)-associated Factor 2A (TRAF2A), a TRAF2 Splice Variant with an Extended RING Finger Domain That Inhibits TNFR2-mediated NF- κ B Activation. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 13 February 1998, Vol. 273, No. 7, pages 4129-4134.	1-32
A	TAKEUCHI et al. Distinct Domains for Nuclear Factor- κ B Activation and Association with Tumor Necrosis Factor Signaling Proteins. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 16 August 1996, Vol. 271, No. 33, pages 19935-19942.	1-32

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X"
"L"	document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y"
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"A"
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 AUGUST 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 AUG 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

PREMA MERTZ

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/09178

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

WEST, CAS ONLINE, MEDLINE, CAPLUS

search terms:tumor necrosis factor receptor associated factors, TRAF, polypeptide, nucleic acid, DNA , polynucleotide, method, treatment, therapy, administer

14

INTENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

REC'D 01 MAR 2001
 WIPO PCT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P22,818 PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US00/09178	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 APRIL 2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 APRIL 1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Please See Supplemental Sheet.		
Applicant AVENTIS PHARMACEUTICALS PRODUCTS, INC.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability, citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15 NOVEMBER 2000	Date of completion of this report 18 FEBRUARY 2001
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer PREMA MERTZ Telephone No. (703) 305-0196
Facsimile No. (703) 305-9230	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:

pages 1-47

pages NONE

pages NONE

, filed with the demand

 the claims:

pages 48-51

, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE

pages NONE

, filed with the demand

 the drawings:

pages 1-13

, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE

, filed with the demand

 the sequence listing part of the description:

pages 1-6

, as originally filed

pages NONE

pages NONE

, filed with the demand

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in printed form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages NONE the claims, Nos. NONE the drawings, sheets/fig NONE5. This report has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

**Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-32</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-32</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-32</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-32 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a DNA encoding TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD, the TRAF2TR polypeptide, the TRAF2TD polypeptide, a method of inhibiting TNF alpha-regulated pathways or of inhibiting inflammatory processes involving TNF alpha by administering a TRAF2TR polypeptide or DNA capable of expressing TRAF2TR polypeptide and a method of inhibiting TNF alpha-regulated pathways by administering a TRAF2TD polypeptide or DNA capable of expressing TRAF2TD polypeptide.

Claims 1-32 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4) for industrial applicability.

————— NEW CITATIONS —————
NONE

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

CLASSIFICATION:

The International Patent Classification (IPC) and/or the National classification are as listed below:

IPC(7): C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/64; C07K 14/435; A61K 38/16, 38/17, 48/00 and US Cl.: 536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

**VARIANTS OF TRAF2 WHICH ACT AS AN
INHIBITOR OF TNF-ALPHA (TNF α) SIGNALING PATHWAY**

Field of the Invention

Tumor necrosis factor α (TNF α) is an intercellular
5 mediator of immune responses produced by a variety of cells,
including activated macrophages and monocytes. The responses
triggered by TNF α are initiated through its interaction with
two distinct TNF α cell surface receptors: TNF α R1 and
TNF α R2. TNF α binds to these cell surface receptors and
10 triggers activation of transcriptional factors, for example,
nuclear factor κ B (NF κ B), which regulate the expression of a
variety of immune and inflammatory response genes.

Upon the binding of TNF α , the TNF α receptors interact
through their cytoplasmic domains with a variety of
15 intracellular signal translation proteins. One group of
intracellular signal translation proteins known to associate
with the TNF α receptors are the tumor necrosis factor
receptor associated factors known as the "TRAF" family of
receptor proteins. The TRAF family is comprised of a number
20 of homologous proteins which share common structural features
and which associate with and transduce signals from TNF α
receptor proteins. The TRAF proteins lack enzymatic activity
motifs and instead appear to function as adapter proteins
which couple the receptors to downstream signaling cascades.

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One member of the family, TRAF2, associates with a number of TNF α receptor family proteins, including TNF α R1, TNF α R2, CD40 and CD30. For TRAF2, direct binding of at least eight intracellular molecules has been identified. TRAF2 has been 5 shown to be critical for TNF α mediated activation of a variety of transcriptional factors, in particular, NF κ B and the C-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK/SAPK) and these transcription factors are in turn responsible for expression of an immune/inflammatory response.

10 There are a variety of disease states that are linked to regulatory pathways controlled by TNF α binding. In some instances, TNF α binding triggers an inflammatory response which ultimately results in a disease state. Accordingly, it would be desirable to develop means for preventing diseases 15 related to TNF α receptor binding. In particular, it would be desirable to find a way to prevent activation of an inflammatory response that would otherwise be initiated by TNF α activation. The present invention provides polypeptides which are based on TRAF2 and which are capable 20 of inhibiting the TNF α signaling pathways in order to treat and prevent diseases linked to TNF α binding.

Reported Developments

The general structure of the TRAF proteins has been described and is illustrated generally in Figure 1(a) which 25 shows in diagrammatic form full-length TRAF2 (TRAF2-FL). These proteins have an N-terminal region with a zinc ring finger motif, followed by an array of zinc finger-like structures. The zinc finger region is followed by a conserved (TRAF) domain which is composed of two subdomains: 30 an N-terminal domain and a C-terminal domain. The C-terminal domain is involved in receptor association and homo-, as well as hetero-oligomerization of TRAFs, and serves as a docking site for a variety of other signaling proteins.

TRAF2 follows the general structure of the TRAF proteins 35 described above. A number of studies have attempted to

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correlate the structural subdomains of the TRAF2 protein with the protein's functions.

Takeuchi et al. performed extensive mutational analysis on TRAF2 (Takeuchi et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271(33) 19935-42 5 (1996)). These studies suggest TRAF2 is composed of modular domains mediating distinct activities. The authors determined that the N-terminal ring finger and 2 adjacent zinc fingers of TRAF2 are required for NF κ B activation and that the distinct TRAF-N and TRAF-C subdomains within the 10 TRAF domain appear to independently mediate self association and interaction with TRAF1.

Song et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 94, 9792-9796 15 (1997)) followed up on studies showing that the TNF α induced activation of NF κ B and the c-jun N-terminal kinase (JNK/SAPK) requires TRAF2. The authors showed that TRAF2 is the bifurcation point of two kinase cascades leading to activation of NF κ B and JNK. This observation supports a functional model for TRAF2 and other members of the TRAF 20 family as adaptor proteins with docking sites for additional signaling proteins that initiate parallel downstream responses.

Min et al. (*J. Immunology*, 159, 3508-3518 (1997)) used a transfection/overexpression strategy to analyze the roles of TRAF proteins. TRAF2 containing the TRAF domain, but lacking 25 amino terminal residues 1-80 had been previously shown to inhibit TNF α induced NF κ B activation. The authors demonstrated that this TRAF2 variant also blocked JNK activation by TNF α .

Brink et al., (*J. Biol. Chem.*, 273, 7, 4129-4134 (1998)) 30 described a splice variant of TRAF2 which they called "TRAF2A." The cDNA of TRAF2A is identical to TRAF2 with the exception of an extra 21 bp of sequence encoding a seven amino acid insert within the TRAF2A ring finger domain. The authors found that TRAF2A mRNA expression is regulated in a 35 tissue specific manner and TRAF2A protein is capable of

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binding to the cytoplasmic domain of TNF α R2. They also found that, in contrast to TRAF2, TRAF2A is unable to stimulate NF κ B activity when overexpressed in 293 cells and acts as a dominant inhibitor of TNF α R2 dependent NF κ B activation.

5 Many studies have linked inflammatory processes and TNF α with the major cardiovascular disease states (Bryant et al., *Circulation*, 97(14):1375-81 (1998); Kubota et al., *Circ. Res.*, 81(4):627-35 (1997); Muller Werdan et al., *Eur. Cytokine Netw.*, 9(4):689-91 (1998); Aukrust et al., *Am. J. Cardiol.*, 83(3):376-82 (1999)). Over the past five years, evidence has accumulated which indicates that raised local TNF α levels are associated with: (a) cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury which follows myocardial infarction, coronary artery bypass surgery, cardiac transplantation or 15 ischemia-reperfusion injury in the CNS following stroke; (b) the progression and rupture of advanced coronary atherosclerotic plaques; (c) the development and progression of congestive heart failure; and (d) endothelial cell injury following balloon angioplasty. In addition, recent findings 20 suggest that apoptotic cell death may be an important factor in the pathophysiology of myocardial cell death during heart failure or infarction. It is known that TNF α can induce myocyte apoptosis.

In addition to the cardiovascular disease states 25 mentioned above, there are a variety of other disease states whose pathogenesis is linked to TNF α . These disease states include Crohn's disease, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, graft versus host disease, inflammatory bowel disease, non-insulin dependent diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases 30 (e.g., Parkinson's disease).

Given the relationship between TNF α and a large variety of diseases such as those discussed above, it would be desirable to provide compositions and methods for inhibiting and treating these disease states.

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Summary of the Invention

In accordance with the present invention, it has been found that variants of TRAF2, in particular, a variant that includes a naturally occurring splice variation (TRAF2TR) and 5 a variant that includes the naturally occurring splice variation and a deletion in the N-terminal region of TRAF2 (TRAF2TD), provide for inhibition of TNF α signal transduction and the associated immune inflammatory responses.

10 In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a DNA sequence encoding TRAF2TR comprising the sequence as shown in Figure 2a.

15 In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, there is also provided a DNA sequence encoding TRAF2TD comprising the sequence as shown in Figure 3a.

In a preferred embodiment, the TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD DNA are cDNAs.

20 In other embodiments, the present invention provides a TRAF2TR polypeptide which is capable of inhibiting tumor necrosis factor α (TNF α) regulated pathways comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2b and a TRAF2TD polypeptide which is capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 3b.

25 Another aspect of the present invention provides a method of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways in a patient comprising introducing into the body of the patient a composition which is capable of inhibiting the TNF α regulated pathway and which comprises an expression vector 30 capable of expressing TRAF2TR polypeptide, an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD polypeptide, a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, or a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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Still another aspect of the present invention provides a method of inhibiting diseases involving overproduction of TNF α comprising administering to a patient a composition which is capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways and which 5 comprises an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TR, an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD, a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, or a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 Yet another aspect of the present invention provides a method of inhibiting TNF α pathologies involving hyperactivation of nuclear factor κ B(NFKB) dependent genes comprising administering to a patient a composition which is capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways and which 15 comprises an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TR, an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD, a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, or a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20 The present invention also provides a method of inhibiting inflammatory processes involving tumor necrosis factor α comprising administering to a patient a composition which is capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways and which comprises an expression vector capable of expressing 25 TRAF2TR, an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD, a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, or a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In certain embodiments, the inflammatory process is 30 selected from the group consisting of Crohn's disease, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, graft versus host disease, inflammatory bowel disease, non-insulin dependent diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases.

In yet another embodiment, the inflammatory process is a 35 cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of

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(a) cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury following myocardial infarction, coronary artery bypass surgery, cardiac transplantation or ischemia-reperfusion injury in the CNS following stroke; (b) the progression and rupture of advanced 5 coronary atherosclerotic plaques; (c) the development and progression of congestive heart failure; (d) endothelial cell injury following balloon angioplasty; and (e) apoptotic cell death of myocardial cells.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, 10 there is provided a DNA sequence encoding a TRAF2TR/2TD variant.

Another aspect of the present invention provides a TRAF2TR/2TD variant polypeptide which is capable of inhibiting TNF α -regulated pathways.

15 The present invention provides the advantage of being able to treat a wide variety of disease states using variants of a naturally-occurring protein which interferes with an early event common to these disease states, i.e., TNF α signal transduction.

20 Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a schematic structure of full length TRAF2 (TRAF2-FL) and the alternatively spliced variant, TRAF2TR.

Figures 2a and 2b are the nucleic acid sequence (2a) of TRAF2TR cDNA and the amino acid sequence of TRAF2TR (2b).

25 Figures 3a and 3b are the nucleic acid sequence of TRAF2TD (3a) and the amino acid sequence of TRAF2TD (3b).

Figures 4a and 4b are the nucleic acid (4a) and amino acid (4b) alignment of spliced TRAF2 (TRAF2TR) and full length TRAF2.

30 Figure 5 illustrates the tissue distribution of TRAF2TR variant mRNA. Lanes: 1 - control TRAF2FL cDNA; 2 - control

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TRAF2 spliced variant (TRAF2TR) cDNA; 3 - Jurkat; 4 - HeLa cell line; 5 - Thymus; 6 - placenta; 7 - Thymus; 8 - spleen; 9 - ovary; 10 - control TRAF2FL.

Figure 6 illustrates the immunodetection of Myc-fused 5 TRAF2FL and TRAF2TR in transfected HeLa cells. Lanes: 1- pcDNA3 vector; 2-myc-TRAF2FL; 3-myc-TRAF2TR.

Figure 7 illustrates an electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA) that was performed using an NFkB UAS probe. Nuclear extracts from cells overexpressing FL TRAF2 (lanes 3 10 and 4) show TNF-alpha induced shifts significantly stronger in comparison to control (lanes 1 and 2). TRAF2-TR overexpression blocks formation of NF-kB and, as a result, no shift has been detected in TNF α stimulated cells (lanes 5 and 6).

15 Detailed Description of the Invention

There are set forth hereafter definitions of terms used herein and descriptions of preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Definitions

20 A "cloning vector" is a replicon, for example, a plasmid, phage or cosmid, to which another DNA segment may be attached so as to bring about the replication of the attached segment. A "replicon" is any genetic element (e.g., plasmid, chromosome, virus) that functions as an autonomous unit of 25 DNA replication *in vivo*, i.e., capable of replication under its own control. A cloning vector may be capable of replication in one cell type and expression in another ("shuttle vector"). In preferred embodiments of the present invention, the cloning vector is capable of expression in a 30 host cell and the "expression vector" is able to express TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD at sufficient levels to interfere with a TNF α regulated pathway in the cell.

A "cassette" refers to a segment of DNA that can be inserted into a vector at one or more specific restriction

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sites. The segment of DNA encodes a polypeptide of interest and the cassette and restriction sites are designed to ensure insertion of the cassette in the proper reading frame for transcription and translation.

5 A cell has been "transfected" by exogenous or heterologous DNA when such DNA has been introduced inside the cell. A cell has been "transformed" by exogenous or heterologous DNA when the transfected DNA effects a phenotypic change. The transforming DNA can be integrated
10 (covalently linked) into chromosomal DNA making up the genome of the cell.

A "nucleic acid molecule" refers to the phosphate ester polymeric form of ribonucleosides (adenosine, guanosine, uridine or cytidine; "RNA molecules") or of deoxyribo-
15 nucleosides (deoxyadenosine, deoxyguanosine, deoxythymidine, or deoxycytidine; "DNA molecules") or of any phosphoester analogs thereof, such as phosphorothioates and thioesters, in either single stranded form or a double-stranded helix. Double stranded DNA-DNA, DNA-RNA and RNA-RNA helices are
20 possible. The term "nucleic acid molecule" and in particular DNA or RNA molecule, refers only to the primary and secondary structure of the molecule, and does not limit it to any particular tertiary forms. Thus, this term includes double-stranded DNA found, *inter alia*, in linear or circular DNA
25 molecules (e.g., restriction fragments), plasmids, and chromosomes. In discussing the structure of particular double-stranded DNA molecules, sequences may be described herein according to the normal convention of giving only the sequence in the 5' to 3' direction along the nontranscribed
30 strand of DNA (i.e., the strand having a sequence homologous to the mRNA). A "recombinant DNA molecule" is a DNA molecule that has undergone a molecular biological manipulation.

A nucleic acid molecule is "hybridizable" to another nucleic acid molecule, for example, a cDNA, genomic DNA, or
35 RNA, when a single stranded form of the nucleic acid molecule can anneal to the other nucleic acid molecule under the

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appropriate conditions of temperature and solution ionic strength (see Sambrook et al., *infra*). The conditions of temperature and ionic strength determine the "stringency" of the hybridization. Hybridization requires that the two 5 nucleic acids contain complementary sequences, although depending on the stringency of the hybridization, mismatches between bases are possible. The appropriate stringency for hybridizing nucleic acids depends on the length of the nucleic acids and the degree of complementation, variables 10 well known in the art.

As used herein, the term "oligonucleotide" refers to a nucleic acid, generally of at least 18 nucleotides, that is hybridizable to a genomic DNA molecule, a cDNA molecule, or an mRNA molecule encoding TRAF2. Oligonucleotides can be 15 labeled, e.g., with ^{32}P -nucleotides or nucleotides to which a label, such as biotin, has been covalently conjugated. In one embodiment, a labeled oligonucleotide can be used as a probe to detect the presence of a nucleic acid encoding TRAF2. In another embodiment, oligonucleotides (one or both 20 of which may be labeled) can be used as PCR primers, either for cloning full length or a fragment of TRAF2, or to detect the presence of nucleic acids encoding TRAF2. In a further embodiment, an oligonucleotide can form a triple helix with a TRAF2 DNA molecule. Generally, oligonucleotides are prepared 25 synthetically, preferably on a nucleic acid synthesizer. Accordingly, oligonucleotides can be prepared with non-naturally occurring phosphoester analog bonds, such as thioester bonds, etc.

A DNA "coding sequence" is a double-stranded DNA 30 sequence which is transcribed and translated into a polypeptide in a cell *in vitro* or *in vivo* when placed under the control of appropriate regulatory sequences. The DNA coding sequences and the appropriate regulatory sequences are preferably provided in an expression vector. The boundaries 35 of the coding sequence are determined by a start codon at the 5' (amino) terminus and a translation stop codon at the 3' (carboxyl) terminus. A coding sequence can include, but is

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not limited to, prokaryotic sequences, cDNA from eukaryotic mRNA, genomic DNA sequences from eukaryotic (e.g., mammalian) DNA, and even synthetic DNA sequences. If the coding sequence is intended for expression in a eukaryotic cell, a 5 polyadenylation signal and transcription termination sequence will usually be located 3' to the coding sequence.

Transcriptional and translational control sequences are DNA regulatory sequences, such as, for example, promoters, enhancers, and terminators that provide for the expression of 10 a coding sequence in a host cell. In eukaryotic cells, polyadenylation signals are control sequences.

A "promoter sequence" is a DNA regulatory region capable of binding RNA polymerase in a cell and initiating transcription of a downstream (3' direction) coding sequence. 15 For purposes of defining the present invention, the promoter sequence is bounded at its 3' terminus by the transcription initiation site and extends upstream (5' direction) to include the minimum number of bases or elements necessary to initiate transcription at levels detectable above background. 20 Within the promoter sequence will be found a transcription initiation site (conveniently defined for example, by mapping with nuclease S1), as well as protein binding domains (consensus sequences) responsible for the binding of RNA polymerase.

25 A coding sequence is "under the control" of transcriptional and translational control sequences in a cell when RNA polymerase transcribes the coding sequence into mRNA, which is then spliced (if the coding sequence contains introns) and translated into the protein encoded by the 30 coding sequence.

As used herein, the term "homologous" refers to the relationship between proteins that possess a "common evolutionary origin." Such proteins (and their encoding genes) have sequence homology, as reflected by their high 35 degree of sequence similarity. The term "sequence

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similarity" refers to the degree of identity or correspondence between nucleic acid or amino acid sequences of proteins that may or may not share a common evolutionary origin. However, in common usage and as used herein, the 5 term "homologous," when modified with an adverb such as "highly," may refer to sequence similarity and not a common evolutionary origin.

The term "TNF α regulated pathway" and related terms refer to signal transduction pathways involving the binding 10 of TNF α to a member of the tumor necrosis factor receptor family (TNFR).

The term "corresponding to" is used herein to refer to similar or homologous sequences, whether the exact position is identical or different from the molecule to which the 15 similarity or homology is measured. A nucleic acid or amino acid sequence alignment may include spaces. Thus, the term "corresponding to" refers to the sequence similarity and not the numbering of the amino acid residues or nucleotide bases.

The term "splice variant" refers to a polypeptide 20 encoded by an mRNA produced by alternative processing of the full length mRNA encoded by a gene or genes resulting in an mRNA that contains one or more deletions relative to the full length mRNA for the genes.

Embodiments of the Invention

25 The present invention relates to two variants of TRAF2 which inhibit TNF α signaling pathways. One embodiment is an RNA processing splice variant of TRAF2 referred to hereinafter as "TRAF2 truncated" or "TRAF2TR". Another embodiment is based on TRAF2TR having a deletion of amino 30 acid residues 1 to 87 relative to TRAF2TR and is referred to as "TRAF2 truncated-deleted" or "TRAF2TD". Both TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD have the ability to inhibit TNF α signaling pathways. TRAF2TD is a particularly preferred embodiment due to its ability to dramatically reduce the response to TNF α binding.

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There follows hereinbelow a description of the structure of these two embodiments, followed by a discussion on how to prepare these embodiments.

Structure and Preparation of TRAF2TR Embodiment

5 The cDNA sequence for this splice variant is presented in Figure 2a and the amino acid sequence is presented in Figure 2b. Referring to Figure 1 which shows TRAF2TR schematically, it can be seen that the deletion removes amino acid residues 123 to 201 of TRAF2FL, which encompasses the C-
10 terminal portion of Zn finger domain 1 and all of the Zn fingers 2 and 3, as well as the N-terminal residues of Zn finger 4.

The TRAF2TR embodiment of the present invention can be prepared by any suitable method, including a variety of
15 methods known to those of skill in the art. Teachings on the isolation, cloning and sequencing DNA can be found in a variety of sources. General molecular biology, microbiology and recombinant DNA techniques within the skill of the art, are explained fully in the literature. See, e.g., Sambrook,
20 Fritsch & Maniatis, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition (1989) Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (herein "Sambrook et al., 1989"); *DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach*, Volumes I and II (D.N. Glover ed. 1985); *Oligonucleotide Synthesis* (M.J. Gait
25 ed. 1984); *Nucleic Acid Hybridization* [B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. (1985)]; *Transcription And Translation* [B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins, eds. (1984)]; *Animal Cell Culture* [R.I. Freshney, ed. (1986)]; *Immobilized Cells And Enzymes* [IRL Press, (1986)]; B. Perbal, *A Practical Guide To Molecular
30 Cloning* (1984); F.M. Ausubel et al. (eds.), *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (1994).

Given the information in the description herein on the DNA sequence of TRAF2TR and the known methods in the art for obtaining cDNA, nucleotide sequences encoding TRAF2TR and
35 TRAF2TD can be cloned readily or prepared from wild type TRAF2 and inserted into an appropriate vector for expression

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of these proteins *in vitro* or *in vivo*. For a description of methods relating to cloning cDNA and expression vectors, see Sambrook et al., 1989, *supra*.

A gene encoding TRAF2, whether genomic DNA or cDNA, can 5 be isolated from a human genomic library or cDNA library. Methods for obtaining a gene given the DNA sequence information presented herein are well known in the art. The TRAF2 DNA may be obtained by standard procedures known in the art from cloned DNA (e.g., a DNA "library"). It is obtained 10 preferably from a cDNA library prepared from tissues with high level expression of the protein (e.g., cells of lymphoid origin, in particular, B cells or an osteosarcoma cell line, for example, human osteosarcoma SAOS-2 (ATCC No. HTB-85) that exhibit high levels of expression of TRAF2 or TRAF2TR). The 15 DNA may also be obtained by the cloning of genomic DNA, or fragments thereof, purified from the desired cell (See, for example, Sambrook et al.; 1989, *supra*; Glover, D.M. (ed.), 1985, DNA Cloning: A Practical Approach, MRL Press, Ltd., Oxford, U.K. Vol. I, II) or by chemical synthesis. Clones 20 derived from genomic DNA may contain regulatory and intron DNA regions in addition to coding regions; clones derived from cDNA will not contain intron sequences. Given that the present invention is based in part on the isolation of a splice variant (TRAF2TR) of full length TRAF2, it is 25 desirable to obtain a cDNA encoding the TRAF2TR sequence.

Methods for obtaining cDNA are well known in the art. Briefly, these methods include isolating a mixture of messenger RNA (mRNAs) from eukaryotic cells and employing a series of enzymatic reactions to synthesize double-stranded 30 DNA copies (cDNAs) complementary to the isolated mRNAs.

It has been found that reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) cloning is an efficient way to isolate cDNA containing the TRAF2TR splice variant as presented in Example 1 hereinbelow. RT-PCR involves reverse 35 transcription of cellular mRNA with the enzyme reverse

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transcriptase followed by subjecting the resultant DNA product to amplification using PCR.

Regardless of the method used to obtain the desired cDNA, the double-stranded cDNA mixture is inserted into 5 cloning vehicles by any one of many known techniques, depending at least in part on the particular vehicle used. Various insertion methods are discussed in considerable detail in *Methods in Enzymology*, 68, 16-18 (1980), as well as in Sambrook et al., 1989, *supra*.

10 Once the DNA segments are inserted into a cloning vehicle, the cloning vehicle is used to transform a suitable host. These cloning vehicles usually impart an antibiotic resistance trait on the host. Such hosts are generally prokaryotic cells and only a few of the host cells contain 15 the desired cDNA. The transfected host cells constitute a gene "library", providing a representative sample of the mRNAs present in the cell from which the mRNAs were isolated.

Given the sequence information on TRAF2 provided herein, an appropriate oligonucleotide sequence may be prepared, 20 preferably synthesized as discussed above, and used to identify clones containing TRAF2 sequences. To identify clones containing the TRAF2 sequences, individual transformed or transfected cells are grown as colonies on a nitrocellulose filter paper. The colonies are lysed and the 25 DNA is bound tightly to the filter paper by heating. The filter paper is then incubated with a labeled oligonucleotide probe which is complementary to TRAF2. DNA fragments with substantial homology to TRAF2 will hybridize to the probe. The greater the degree of homology, the more stringent 30 hybridization conditions can be used.

The probe hybridizes with the cDNA for which it is complementary. It can be identified by autoradiography or by chemical reactions that identify the presence of the probe. The corresponding clones are characterized in order to 35 identify one or a combination of clones which contain all of

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the structural information for the desired protein. The nucleic acid sequence coding for the protein of interest is isolated and reinserted into an expression vector. The expression vector brings the cloned gene under the regulatory 5 control of specific prokaryotic or eukaryotic control elements which allow the efficient expression (transcription and translation) of the ds-cDNA.

Further selection can be carried out on the basis of the properties of the gene. For example, if the gene encodes a 10 protein product having the isoelectric, electrophoretic, amino acid composition, or partial amino acid sequence of the TRAF2 protein as disclosed herein. Thus, the presence of the gene may be detected by assays based on the physical, chemical, or immunological properties of its expressed 15 product. For example, cDNA clones, or DNA clones can be selected which produce a protein that has similar or identical properties to TRAF2TR with regard to electrophoretic migration, isoelectric focusing, non-equilibrium pH gel electrophoresis, proteolytic digestion, or 20 antigenicity.

Structure and Preparation of TRAF2TD Embodiment

Relative to TRAF2TR, TRAF2TD has a deletion of amino acids 1 to 87 and the corresponding nucleotides encoding these amino acids. The DNA sequence for TRAF2TD is presented 25 in Figure 3a and the amino acid sequence is presented in Figure 3b.

Any suitable method can be used to prepare the TRAF2TD embodiment, including, for example, a variety of methods based on the information provided above. In particular, 30 there are a number of methods for creating a truncated version of TRAF2TR containing a deletion of amino acids 1 to 87. In a preferred method of preparation, TRAF2TR cDNA is used as a template for PCR using a 5' primer encompassing nucleotides 262 to 280 of the TRAF2 full length coding 35 sequence (ATGAGTTGGCCTTCCAGAT wherein the ATG codon was included to create a translation initiation site; the 3'

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primer was TTA TAG CCC TGT CAG GTC CAC. The resulting construct begins at amino acid 88 of full length TRAF2 and contains the 123 to 201 amino acid deletion of TRAF2TR.

Additional variants of TRAF2TR can be prepared using 5 methods such as those described above for the preparation of TRAF2TD.

TRAF2TR/2TD Variants

The present invention includes within its scope allelic variants, substitution, addition and deletion mutant 10 variants, analogs, and derivatives of TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD (hereinafter referred to as "TRAF2TR/2TD variants") and homologs from other species that have the same or homologous functional activity as TRAF2TR. In preferred embodiments, genes having deletions or substitutions that increase the 15 ability to inhibit TNF α signaling pathways are utilized in the practice of the invention. Preparation or isolation of TRAF2TR/2TD variants are within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the scope of the present invention includes TRAF2TR/2TD variants which are functionally active, 20 i.e., capable of exhibiting one or more functional activities associated with TRAF2TR.

TRAF2TR/2TD variants can be made by altering encoding nucleic acid sequences by substitutions, additions or deletions that provide for functionally equivalent molecules. 25 Preferably, TRAF2TR/2TD embodiments are made that have enhanced or increased functional activity relative to TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD.

Due to the degeneracy of nucleotide coding sequences, other DNA sequences which encode substantially the same amino 30 acid sequence as TRAF2TR, including an amino acid sequence that contains a single amino acid variant, may be used in the practice of the present invention. These include, but are not limited to, allelic genes, homologous genes from other species, and nucleotide sequences comprising all or portions 35 of TRAF2TR which are altered by the substitution of different

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codons that encode the same amino acid residue within the sequence, thus producing a silent change. Likewise, the TRAF2TR/2TD variants of the invention include, but are not limited to, those containing, as a primary amino acid sequence, all or part of the amino acid sequence of a TRAF2TR protein including altered sequences in which functionally equivalent amino acid residues are substituted for residues within the sequence resulting in a conservative amino acid substitution. For example, one or more amino acid residues within the sequence can be substituted by another amino acid of a similar polarity, which acts as a functional equivalent, resulting in a silent alteration. Substitutes for an amino acid within the sequence may be selected from other members of the class to which the amino acid belongs. For example, the nonpolar (hydrophobic) amino acids include alanine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan and methionine. Amino acids containing aromatic ring structures are phenylalanine, tryptophan, and tyrosine. The polar neutral amino acids include glycine, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, and glutamine. The positively charged (basic) amino acids include arginine, lysine and histidine. The negatively charged (acidic) amino acids include aspartic acid and glutamic acid. Such alterations will not be expected to affect apparent molecular weight as determined by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, or isoelectric point.

Particularly preferred substitutions are:

- Lys for Arg and vice versa such that a positive charge may be maintained;
- 30 - Glu for Asp and vice versa such that a negative charge may be maintained;
- Ser for Thr such that a free -OH can be maintained; and
- Gln for Asn such that a free CONH₂ can be maintained.

35 Amino acid substitutions may also be introduced to substitute an amino acid with a particularly preferable property. For example, a Cys may be introduced a potential

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site for disulfide bridges with another Cys. A His may be introduced as a particularly "catalytic" site (i.e., His can act as an acid or base and is the most common amino acid in biochemical catalysis). Pro may be introduced because of its 5 particularly planar structure, which induces β -turns in the protein's structure.

The genes encoding TRAF2TR/2TD variants of the invention can be produced by various methods known in the art. The manipulations which result in their production can occur at 10 the gene or protein level. For example, the cloned TRAF2 gene sequence can be modified by any of numerous strategies known in the art (Sambrook et al., 1989, *supra*). The sequence can be cleaved at appropriate sites with restriction endonuclease(s), followed by further enzymatic modification 15 if desired, isolated, and ligated *in vitro*. In the production of the gene encoding a TRAF2TR/2TD embodiment, care should be taken to ensure that the modified gene remains within the same translational reading frame as the TRAF2TR gene, uninterrupted by translational stop signals, in the 20 gene region where the desired activity is encoded.

Additionally, the TRAF2TR/2TD-encoding nucleic acid sequence can be mutated *in vitro* or *in vivo* to create and/or destroy translation, initiation, and/or termination sequences, or to create variations in coding regions and/or 25 form new restriction endonuclease sites or destroy preexisting ones, to facilitate further *in vitro* modification. Preferably, such mutations enhance the functional activity of the mutated TRAF2TR gene product. Any technique for mutagenesis known in the art can be used, 30 including but not limited to, *in vitro* site-directed mutagenesis (Hutchinson, C., et al., 1978, *J. Biol. Chem.* 253:6551; Zoller and Smith, 1984, *DNA* 3:479-488; Oliphant et al., 1986, *Gene* 44:177; Hutchinson et al., 1986, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 83:710), use of "TAB" linkers (Pharmacia), 35 etc. PCR techniques are preferred for site directed mutagenesis (see Higuchi, 1989, "Using PCR to Engineer DNA", in PCR Technology: Principles and Applications for DNA

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Amplification, H. Erlich, ed., Stockton Press, Chapter 6, pp. 61-70).

The discussion which follows relates to the manipulation and expression of DNA encoding the desired polypeptides is 5 common to both TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD, as well as TRAF2TR/2TD variants.

Cloning of TRAF2TR, TRAF2TD and TRAF2TR/2TD Variants into Cloning/Expression Vectors

The identified and isolated DNA sequence can be inserted 10 into an appropriate cloning/expression vector (hereinafter "vector") to facilitate modifications to the sequence or expression of the protein. These vectors typically include multiple cloning sites, promoters, sequences which facilitate replication in a host cell and selection markers.

15 Any suitable vector can be used. There are many known in the art. Examples of vectors that can be used include, but are not limited to, plasmids or modified viruses. The vector is typically compatible with a given host cell into which the vector is introduced to facilitate replication of 20 the vector and expression of the encoded proteins. The insertion of a DNA sequence into a given vector can, for example, be accomplished by ligating the DNA fragment into a cloning vector which has complementary cohesive termini. However, if the complementary restriction sites used to 25 fragment the DNA are not present in the cloning vector, the ends of the DNA molecules may be enzymatically modified. Alternatively, any site desired may be produced by ligating nucleotide sequences (linkers) onto the DNA termini; these ligated linkers may comprise specific chemically synthesized 30 oligonucleotides encoding restriction endonuclease recognition sequences. Useful vectors may consist of segments of chromosomal, non-chromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences. Examples of specific vectors useful in the practice of the present invention include, but are not 35 limited to, *E. coli* bacteriophages, for example, lambda derivatives, or plasmids, for example, pBR322 derivatives or

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pUC plasmid derivatives, e.g., pmal-c, pFLAG, derivatives of SV40 and known bacterial plasmids, e.g., *E. coli* plasmids col E1, pCR1, pMal-C2, pET, pGEX (Smith et al., 1988, Gene 67:31-40), pMB9 and their derivatives, plasmids such as RP4; phage 5 DNAs, e.g., the numerous derivatives of phage λ, e.g., NM989, and other phage DNA, e.g., M13 and filamentous single stranded phage DNA; yeast vectors such as the 2 μm plasmid or derivatives thereof; vectors useful in eukaryotic cells, for example, vectors useful in insect cells, such as baculovirus 10 vectors, vectors useful in mammalian cells; vectors derived from combinations of plasmids and phage DNAs, plasmids that have been modified to employ phage DNA or other expression 15 control sequences; and the like.

Yeast vectors that can be used according to the 15 invention include, but are not limited to, the non-fusion pYES2 vector (*Xba*I, *Sph*I, *Sho*I, *Not*I, *Gst*XI, *Eco*RI, *Bst*XI, *Bam*H1, *Sac*I, *Kpn*I, and *Hind*III cloning site; Invitrogen) or the fusion pYESHisA, B, C (*Xba*I, *Sph*I, *Sho*I, *Not*I, *Bst*XI, *Eco*RI, *Bam*H1, *Sac*I, *Kpn*I, and *Hind*III cloning site, N- 20 terminal peptide purified with ProBond resin and cleaved with enterokinase; Invitrogen).

Baculovirus vectors that can be used in the practice of the invention include a variety of vectors, including both non-fusion transfer vectors, for example, pVL941 (*Bam*H1 25 cloning site; Summers), pVL1393 (*Bam*H1, *Sma*I, *Xba*I, *Eco*RI, *Not*I, *Xma*III, *Bgl*III, and *Pst*I cloning site; Invitrogen), pVL1392 (*Bgl*III, *Pst*I, *Not*I, *Xma*III, *Eco*RI, *Xba*I, *Sma*I, and *Bam*H1 cloning site; Summers and Invitrogen), and pBlueBacIII (30 *Bam*H1, *Bgl*III, *Pst*I, *Nco*I, and *Hind*III cloning site, with blue/white recombinant screening possible; Invitrogen), and fusion transfer vectors, for example, pAc700 (*Bam*H1 and *Kpn*I 35 cloning site, in which the *Bam*H1 recognition site begins with the initiation codon; Summers), pAc701 and pAc702 (same as pAc700, with different reading frames), pAc360 (*Bam*H1 cloning site 36 base pairs downstream of a polyhedrin initiation codon; Invitrogen(195)), and pBlueBacHisA, B, C (three different reading frames, with *Bam*H1, *Bgl*III, *Pst*I, *Nco*I, and

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*Hind*III cloning site, an N-terminal peptide for ProBond purification, and blue/white recombinant screening of plaques; Invitrogen) can be used.

Mammalian vectors contemplated for use in the invention 5 include, for example, vectors with inducible promoters, for example, the dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) promoter, e.g., any expression vector with a DHFR expression vector, or a DHFR/methotrexate co-amplification vector, for example, pED (PstI, SalI, SbaI, SmaI, and EcoRI cloning site, with the 10 vector expressing both the cloned gene and DHFR; see Kaufman, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, 16.12 (1991). Alternatively, a glutamine synthetase/methionine sulfoximine co-amplification vector, for example, pEE14 (*Hind*III, XbaI, SmaI, SbaI, EcoRI, and BclI cloning site, in which the vector 15 expresses glutamine synthase and the cloned gene; Celltech). In another embodiment, a vector that directs episomal expression under control of Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) can be used, for example, pREP4 (BamH1, SfiI, XhoI, NotI, NheI, *Hind*III, NheI, PvuII, and KpnI cloning site, constitutive 20 Rous Sarcoma Virus Long Terminal Repeat (RSV-LTR) promoter, hygromycin selectable marker; Invitrogen), pCEP4 (BamH1, SfiI, XhoI, NotI, NheI, *Hind*III, NheI, PvuII, and KpnI cloning site, constitutive human cytomegalovirus (hCMV) immediate early gene, hygromycin selectable marker; 25 Invitrogen), pMEP4 (KpnI, PvuI, NheI, *Hind*III, NotI, XhoI, SfiI, BamH1 cloning site, inducible methallothionein IIa gene promoter, hygromycin selectable marker; Invitrogen), pREP8 (BamH1, XhoI, NotI, *Hind*III, NheI, and KpnI cloning site, RSV-LTR promoter, histidinol selectable marker; Invitrogen), 30 pREP9 (KpnI, NheI, *Hind*III, NotI, XhoI, SfiI, and BamH1 cloning site, RSV-LTR promoter, G418 selectable marker; Invitrogen), and pEBVHis (RSV-LTR promoter, hygromycin selectable marker, N-terminal peptide purifiable via ProBond resin and cleaved by enterokinase; Invitrogen). Selectable 35 mammalian expression vectors for use in the invention include pRc/CMV (*Hind*III, BstXI, NotI, SbaI, and ApaI cloning site, G418 selection; Invitrogen), pRc/RSV (*Hind*III, SpeI, BstXI, NotI, XbaI cloning site, G418 selection; Invitrogen), pcDNA3

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(*Hind*III, *Kpn*I, *Bam*HI, *Bst*XI, *Eco*RI, *Eco*RV, *Bst*XI [repeat], *Not*I, *Xho*I, *Xba*I, *Apa*I, cloning sites, G418, ampicillin selection, Invitrogen) and others. Vaccinia virus mammalian expression vectors (see, Kaufman, 1991, *supra*) for use 5 according to the invention include but are not limited to pSC11 (*Sma*I cloning site, TK- and β -gal selection), pMJ601 (*Sal*I, *Sma*I, *Afl*II, *Nar*I, *Bsp*MI, *Bam*HI, *Apa*I, *Nhe*I, *Sac*II, *Kpn*I, and *Hind*III cloning site; TK- and β -gal selection), and 10 pTKgptF1S (*Eco*RI, *Pst*I, *Sal*I, *Acc*I, *Hind*III, *Sba*I, *Bam*HI, and *Hpa* cloning site, TK or XPRT selection).

A variety of methods may be used to confirm that the desired DNA sequence encoding TRAF2TR, TRAF2TD or TRAF2TR/2TD variants have been cloned into a vector. In general, one or more of the following approaches is used: (a) PCR 15 amplification of the desired plasmid DNA or specific mRNA, (b) nucleic acid hybridization, (c) presence or absence of selection marker gene functions, (d) analyses with appropriate restriction endonucleases, and (e) expression of inserted sequences. In the first approach, the nucleic acids 20 can be amplified by PCR to provide for detection of the amplified product. In the second approach, the presence of a foreign gene inserted in an expression vector can be detected by nucleic acid hybridization using probes comprising sequences that are homologous to an inserted marker gene. In 25 the third approach, the recombinant vector/host system can be identified and selected based upon the presence or absence of certain "selection marker" gene functions (e.g., β -galactosidase activity, thymidine kinase activity, resistance to antibiotics, transformation phenotype, occlusion body 30 formation in baculovirus, etc.) caused by the insertion of foreign genes in the vector. In another example, if the nucleic acid encoding TRAF2TR is inserted within the "selection marker" gene sequence of the vector, recombinants containing the TRAF2TR insert can be identified by the 35 absence of the selection marker gene function. In the fourth approach, recombinant expression vectors are identified by digestion with appropriate restriction enzymes. In the fifth approach, recombinant expression vectors can be identified by

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assaying for the activity, biochemical, or immunological characteristics of the gene product expressed by the recombinant, provided that the expressed protein assumes a functionally active conformation.

5 Promoters

The nucleotide sequence coding for TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD or a TRAF2TR/2TD variant thereof can be inserted into an expression vector which contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein-coding sequence. Such elements are termed herein a "promoter." Thus, the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptides of the invention is operationally associated with a promoter in an expression vector of the invention. Both cDNA and genomic sequences can be cloned and expressed under control of such regulatory sequences. An expression vector also preferably includes a replication origin. The necessary transcriptional and translational signals can be provided on a recombinant expression vector, or they may be supplied by the native gene encoding TRAF2 and/or its flanking regions.

10 Any of the methods previously described for the insertion of DNA fragments into a cloning vector may be used to construct expression vectors containing a gene consisting of appropriate transcriptional/translational control signals and the protein coding sequences. These methods may include *in vitro* recombinant DNA and synthetic techniques and *in vivo* recombination (genetic recombination).

15 20 25

Expression may be controlled by any promoter/enhancer element known in the art, but these regulatory elements must be functional in the host selected for expression. Promoters which may be used to control TRAF2TR gene expression include, but are not limited to, the SV40 early promoter region (Benoist and Chambon, 1981, *Nature* 290:304-310), the promoter contained in the 3' long terminal repeat of Rous sarcoma virus (Yamamoto, et al., 1980, *Cell* 22:787-797), the herpes thymidine kinase promoter (Wagner et al., 1981, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 78:1441-1445), the regulatory sequences of the metallothionein gene (Brinster et al., 1982, *Nature*

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296:39-42); prokaryotic expression vectors for example, the
β-lactamase promoter (Villa-Kamaroff, et al., 1978, Proc.
Nat'l. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 75:3727-3731), or the tac promoter
(DeBoer, et al., 1983, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 80:21-
5 25); see also "Useful proteins from recombinant bacteria" in
Scientific American, 1980, 242:74-94; promoter elements from
yeast or other fungi for example, the Gal 4 promoter, the ADC
(alcohol dehydrogenase) promoter, PGK (phosphoglycerol
kinase) promoter, alkaline phosphatase promoter; and the
10 animal transcriptional control regions, which exhibit tissue
specificity and have been utilized in transgenic animals:
elastase I gene control region which is active in pancreatic
acinar cells (Swift et al., 1984, *Cell* 38:639-646; Ornitz et
al., 1986, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.*, 50:399-409;
15 MacDonald, 1987, *Hepatology* 7:425-515); insulin gene control
region which is active in pancreatic beta cells (Hanahan,
1985, *Nature* 315:115-122), immunoglobulin gene control region
which is active in lymphoid cells (Grosschedl et al., 1984,
Cell 38:647-658; Adames et al., 1985, *Nature* 318:533-538;
20 Alexander et al., 1987, *Mol. Cell. Biol.*, 7:1436-1444), mouse
mammary tumor virus control region which is active in
testicular, breast, lymphoid and mast cells (Leder et al.,
1986, *Cell* 45:485-495), albumin gene control region which is
active in liver (Pinkert et al., 1987, *Genes and Devel.*
25 1:268-276), alpha-fetoprotein gene control region which is
active in liver (Krumlauf et al., 1985, *Mol. Cell. Biol.*,
5:1639-1648; Hammer et al., 1987, *Science* 235:53-58), alpha
1-antitrypsin gene control region which is active in the
liver (Kelsey et al., 1987, *Genes and Devel.*, 1:161-171),
30 beta-globin gene control region which is active in myeloid
cells (Mogram et al., 1985, *Nature* 315:338-340; Kollias et
al., 1986, *Cell* 46:89-94), myelin basic protein gene control
region which is active in oligodendrocyte cells in the brain
(Readhead et al., 1987, *Cell* 48:703-712), myosin light chain-
35 2 gene control region which is active in skeletal muscle
(Sani, 1985, *Nature* 314:283-286), and gonadotropin releasing
hormone gene control region which is active in the
hypothalamus (Mason et al., 1986, *Science* 234:1372-1378).

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Introduction of Vectors into Host Cells

Vectors can be introduced into host cells by any suitable method, including, e.g., transfection, electroporation, microinjection, transduction, cell fusion, 5 DEAE dextran, calcium phosphate precipitation, lipofection (lysosome fusion), use of a gene gun, or a DNA vector transporter (see, e.g., Wu et al., 1992, *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:963-967; Wu and Wu, 1988, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:14621-14624; Hartmut et al., Canadian Patent Application No. 2,012,311, 10 filed March 15, 1990), so that many copies of the gene sequence are generated. Preferably, the cloned gene is contained on a shuttle vector plasmid, which provides for expansion in a cloning cell, e.g., *E. coli*, and facilitates purification for subsequent insertion into an appropriate 15 expression cell line. For example, a shuttle vector, which is a vector that can replicate in more than one type of organism, can be prepared for replication in both *E. coli* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* by linking sequences from an *E. coli* plasmid with sequences from the yeast 2 μ m plasmid.

20 Host Cell Systems

Potential host cell systems include but are not limited to mammalian host cell systems infected with virus (e.g., vaccinia virus, adenovirus, etc.); insect host cell systems infected with virus (e.g., baculovirus); microorganisms such 25 as yeast containing yeast vectors; or bacteria transformed with bacteriophage, DNA, plasmid DNA, or cosmid DNA. The expression elements of vectors vary in their strengths and specificities. Depending on the host cell system utilized, any one of a number of suitable transcription and translation 30 elements may be used.

In addition, a host cell strain may be chosen which modulates the expression of the inserted sequences, or modifies and processes the gene product in the specific fashion desired. Different host cells have characteristic 35 and specific mechanisms for the translational and post-translational processing and modification of proteins. Appropriate cell lines or host systems can be chosen to

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ensure the desired modification and processing of the foreign protein expressed. Expression in yeast can produce a biologically active product. Expression in eukaryotic cells can increase the likelihood of "native" folding. Moreover, 5 expression in mammalian cells can provide a tool for reconstituting, or constituting, TRAF2TR-inhibiting activity. Furthermore, different vector/host expression systems may affect processing reactions, such as proteolytic cleavages, to a different extent. Expression vectors of the invention 10 can be used, as pointed out above, both to transfect cells for screening or biological testing of modulators of TRAF2TR activity.

A recombinant TRAF2TR, TRAF2TD or TRAF2TR/2TD variant of the invention may be expressed chromosomally, after 15 integration of the coding sequence by recombination. In this regard, any of a number of amplification systems may be used to achieve high levels of stable gene expression (See Sambrook et al., 1989, *supra*).

The cell into which the recombinant vector comprising 20 the nucleic acid encoding TRAF2TR is introduced is cultured in an appropriate cell culture medium under conditions that provide for expression of TRAF2TR by the cell.

Once a suitable host system and growth conditions are established, recombinant expression vectors can be propagated 25 and prepared in quantity. Soluble forms of the protein can be obtained by collecting culture fluid, or solubilizing inclusion bodies, e.g., by treatment with detergent, and if desired sonication or other mechanical processes, as described above. The solubilized or soluble protein can be 30 isolated using various techniques, including polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE), isoelectric focusing, 2-dimensional gel electrophoresis, chromatography (e.g., ion exchange, affinity, immunoaffinity, and sizing column chromatography), centrifugation, differential solubility, 35 immunoprecipitation, or by any other standard technique for the purification of proteins.

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As discussed above, a "vector" is any means for the transfer of a nucleic acid according to the invention into a host cell. Preferred vectors are viral vectors, for example, retroviruses, herpes viruses, adenoviruses, and adeno-
5 associated viruses. Thus, a gene encoding a protein or polypeptide domain fragment of the present invention is introduced *in vivo*, *ex vivo*, or *in vitro* using a viral vector or through direct introduction of DNA. Expression in targeted tissues can be effected by targeting the transgenic 10 vector to specific cells, such as with a viral vector or a receptor ligand, or by using a tissue-specific promoter, or both.

Use of Viral Vector Systems for
ex vivo and *in vivo* Treatment Methods

15 Viral vectors commonly used for *in vivo* or *ex vivo* targeting and therapy procedures are DNA-based vectors and retroviral vectors. Methods for constructing and using viral vectors are known in the art [see, e.g., Miller and Rosman, *BioTechniques* 7:980-990 (1992)]. Preferably, the viral 20 vectors are replication defective, that is, they are unable to replicate autonomously in the target cell. In general, the genome of the replication defective viral vectors which are used within the scope of the present invention lack at least one region which is necessary for the replication of the 25 virus in the infected cell. These regions can either be eliminated (in whole or in part), or be rendered non-functional by any technique known to a person skilled in the art. These techniques include the total removal, substitution (by other sequences, in particular by the 30 inserted nucleic acid), partial deletion or addition of one or more bases to an essential (for replication) region. Such techniques may be performed *in vitro* (on the isolated DNA) or *in situ*, using the techniques of genetic manipulation or by treatment with mutagenic agents. Preferably, the replication 35 defective virus retains the sequences of its genome which are necessary for encapsulating the viral particles.

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DNA viral vectors include an attenuated or defective DNA virus, such as but not limited to herpes simplex virus (HSV), papillomavirus, Epstein Barr virus (EBV), adenovirus, adeno-associated virus (AAV), vaccinia virus, and the like.

5 Defective viruses, which entirely or almost entirely lack viral genes, are preferred. Defective virus is not replication competent after introduction into a cell, and thus does not lead to a productive viral infection. Use of defective viral vectors allows for administration to cells in

10 a specific, localized area, without concern that the vector can infect other cells. Thus, a specific tissue can be specifically targeted. Examples of particular vectors include, but are not limited to, a defective herpes virus 1 (HSV1) vector [Kaplitt et al., *Molec. Cell. Neurosci.* 2:320-330 (1991)], defective herpes virus vector lacking a glyco-

15 protein L gene [Patent Publication RD 371005 A], or other defective herpes virus vectors [International Patent Publication No. WO 94/21807, published September 29, 1994; International Patent Publication No. WO 92/05263, published

20 April 2, 1994]; an attenuated adenovirus vector, such as the vector described by Stratford-Perricaudet et al. [*J. Clin. Invest.* 90:626-630 (1992); see also La Salle et al., *Science* 259:988-990 (1993)]; and a defective adeno-associated virus vector [Samulski et al., *J. Virol.* 61:3096-3101 (1987);

25 Samulski et al., *J. Virol.* 63:3822-3828 (1989); Lebkowski et al., *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 8:3988-3996 (1988)].

Preferably, for *in vivo* administration, an appropriate immunosuppressive treatment is employed in conjunction with the viral vector, e.g., adenovirus vector, to avoid immuno-
30 deactivation of the viral vector and transfected cells. For example, immunosuppressive cytokines, such as interleukin-12 (IL-12), interferon- γ (IFN- γ), or anti-CD4 antibody, can be administered to block humoral or cellular immune responses to the viral vectors [see, e.g., Wilson, *Nature Medicine* 35 (1995)]. In addition, it is advantageous to employ a viral vector that is engineered to express a minimal number of antigens.

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Naturally, the invention contemplates delivery of a vector that will express a therapeutically effective amount of TRAF2TR for gene therapy applications. The phrase "therapeutically effective amount" is used herein to mean an 5 amount sufficient to reduce and most preferably prevent an immune response resulting in a clinically significant manifestation of a disease linked to TNF α binding. Alternatively, a therapeutically effective amount is sufficient to cause an improvement in a clinically 10 significant condition in the host.

**Preferred Viral Vector Systems
Used in ex vivo and in vivo Treatment Methods**

Certain viral vector systems are well developed in the art and are suited to the treatment methods of the present 15 invention.

a. Adenovirus Vector Systems

In a preferred embodiment, the vector is an adenovirus vector. Adenoviruses are eukaryotic DNA viruses that can be modified to efficiently deliver a nucleic acid of the 20 invention to a variety of cell types. Various serotypes of adenovirus exist. Of these serotypes, preference is given, within the scope of the present invention, to using type 2 or type 5 human adenoviruses (Ad 2 or Ad 5) or adenoviruses of animal origin (see WO94/26914). Those adenoviruses of animal 25 origin which can be used within the scope of the present invention include adenoviruses of canine, bovine, murine (example: Mav1, Beard et al., *Virology* 75 (1990) 81), ovine, porcine, avian, and simian (example: SAV) origin. Preferably, the adenovirus of animal origin is a canine 30 adenovirus, more preferably a CAV2 adenovirus (e.g. Manhattan or A26/61 strain (ATCC VR-800), for example).

Preferably, the replication defective adenoviral vectors of the invention comprise the ITRs, an encapsidation sequence and the nucleic acid of interest. Still more preferably, at 35 least the E1 region of the adenoviral vector is non-functional. The deletion in the E1 region preferably extends

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from nucleotides 455 to 3329 in the sequence of the Ad5 adenovirus (PvuII-BglII fragment) or 382 to 3446 (HinfII-Sau3A fragment). Other regions may also be modified, in particular the E3 region (WO95/02697), the E2 region 5 (WO94/28938), the E4 region (WO94/28152, WO94/12649 and WO95/02697), or in any of the late genes L1-L5.

In a preferred embodiment, the adenoviral vector has a deletion in the E1 region (Ad 1.0). Examples of E1-deleted adenoviruses are disclosed in EP 185,573, the contents of 10 which are incorporated herein by reference. In another preferred embodiment, the adenoviral vector has a deletion in the E1 and E4 regions (Ad 3.0). Examples of E1/E4-deleted adenoviruses are disclosed in WO95/02697 and WO96/22378, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. In 15 still another preferred embodiment, the adenoviral vector has a deletion in the E1 region into which the E4 region and the nucleic acid sequence are inserted (see FR94 13355, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference).

The replication defective recombinant adenoviruses 20 according to the invention can be prepared by any technique known to the person skilled in the art (Levrero et al., *Gene* 101 (1991) 195, EP 185 573; Graham, *EMBO J.* 3 (1984) 2917). In particular, they can be prepared by homologous recombination between an adenovirus and a plasmid which 25 carries, *inter alia*, the DNA sequence of interest. The homologous recombination is effected following cotransfection of the adenovirus and plasmid into an appropriate cell line. The cell line which is employed should preferably (i) be transformable by the said elements, and (ii) contain the 30 sequences which are able to complement the part of the genome of the replication defective adenovirus, preferably in integrated form in order to avoid the risks of recombination. Examples of cell lines which may be used are the human embryonic kidney cell line 293 (Graham et al., *J. Gen. Virol.* 35 36 (1977) 59) which contains the left-hand portion of the genome of an Ad5 adenovirus (12%) integrated into its genome, and cell lines which are able to complement the E1 and E4

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functions, as described in applications WO94/26914 and WO95/02697. Recombinant adenoviruses are recovered and purified using standard molecular biological techniques, which are well known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

5 **b. Adeno-Associated Virus Vector Systems**

The adeno-associated viruses (AAV) are DNA viruses of relatively small size which can integrate, in a stable and site-specific manner, into the genome of the cells which they infect. They are able to infect a wide spectrum of cells 10 without inducing any effects on cellular growth, morphology or differentiation, and they do not appear to be involved in human pathologies. The AAV genome has been cloned, sequenced and characterised. It encompasses approximately 4700 bases 15 and contains an inverted terminal repeat (ITR) region of approximately 145 bases at each end, which serves as an origin of replication for the virus. The remainder of the genome is divided into two essential regions which carry the encapsulation functions: the left-hand part of the genome, which contains the rep gene involved in viral replication and 20 expression of the viral genes; and the right-hand part of the genome, which contains the cap gene encoding the capsid proteins of the virus.

The use of vectors derived from the AAVs for transferring genes in vitro and in vivo has been described 25 (see WO 91/18088; WO 93/09239; US 4,797,368, US 5,139,941, EP 488 528). These publications describe various AAV-derived constructs in which the rep and/or cap genes are deleted and replaced by a gene of interest, and the use of these constructs for transferring the said gene of interest in 30 vitro (into cultured cells) or in vivo, (directly into an organism). The replication defective recombinant AAVs according to the invention can be prepared by cotransfecting a plasmid containing the nucleic acid sequence of interest flanked by two AAV inverted terminal repeat (ITR) regions, 35 and a plasmid carrying the AAV encapsulation genes (rep and cap genes), into a cell line which is infected with a human helper virus (for example an adenovirus). The AAV

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recombinants which are produced are then purified by standard techniques.

The invention also relates, therefore, to an AAV-derived recombinant virus whose genome encompasses a sequence 5 encoding a nucleic acid encoding TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD flanked by the AAV ITRs. The invention also relates to a plasmid encompassing a sequence encoding a nucleic acid encoding TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD flanked by two ITRs from an AAV. Such a 10 plasmid can be used as it is for transferring the nucleic acid sequence, with the plasmid, where appropriate, being incorporated into a liposomal vector (pseudo-virus).

c. Retrovirus Vector Systems

In another embodiment the gene can be introduced in a retroviral vector, e.g., as described in Anderson et al., 15 U.S. Patent No. 5,399,346; Mann et al., 1983, *Cell* 33:153; Temin et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,650,764; Temin et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,980,289; Markowitz et al., 1988, *J. Virol.* 62:1120; Temin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,124,263; EP 453242, EP178220; Bernstein et al. *Genet. Eng.* 7 (1985) 235; 20 McCormick, *BioTechnology* 3 (1985) 689; International Patent Publication No. WO 95/07358, published March 16, 1995, by Dougherty et al.; and Kuo et al., 1993, *Blood* 82:845. The retroviruses are integrating viruses which infect dividing cells. The retrovirus genome includes two LTRs, an 25 encapsulation sequence and three coding regions (gag, pol and env). In recombinant retroviral vectors, the gag, pol and env genes are generally deleted, in whole or in part, and replaced with a heterologous nucleic acid sequence of interest. These vectors can be constructed from different 30 types of retrovirus, such as, HIV, MoMuLV ("murine Moloney leukaemia virus" MSV ("murine Moloney sarcoma virus"), HaSV ("Harvey sarcoma virus"); SNV ("spleen necrosis virus"); RSV ("Rous sarcoma virus") and Friend virus. Defective retroviral vectors are disclosed in WO95/02697.

35 In general, in order to construct recombinant retroviruses containing a nucleic acid sequence, a plasmid is

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constructed which contains the LTRs, the encapsulation sequence and the coding sequence. This construct is used to transfect a packaging cell line, which cell line is able to supply in trans the retroviral functions which are deficient 5 in the plasmid. In general, the packaging cell lines are thus able to express the gag, pol and env genes. Such packaging cell lines have been described in the prior art, in particular the cell line PA317 (US 4,861,719); the PsiCRIP cell line (WO90/02806) and the GP+envAm-12 cell line 10 (WO89/07150). In addition, the recombinant retroviral vectors can contain modifications within the LTRs for suppressing transcriptional activity as well as extensive encapsulation sequences which may include a part of the gag gene (Bender et al., J. Virol. 61 (1987) 1639). Recombinant 15 retroviral vectors are purified by standard techniques known to those having ordinary skill in the art.

Retroviral vectors can be constructed to function as infections particles or to undergo a single round of transfection. In the former case, the virus is modified to 20 retain all of its genes except for those responsible for oncogenic transformation properties, and to express the heterologous gene. Non-infectious viral vectors are prepared to destroy the viral packaging signal, but retain the structural genes required to package the co-introduced virus 25 engineered to contain the heterologous gene and the packaging signals. Thus, the viral particles that are produced are not capable of producing additional virus. Targeted gene delivery is described in International Patent Publication WO 95/28494, published October 1995.

30 **Non-Viral Systems Used in
ex vivo and in vivo Treatment Methods**

Certain non-viral systems have been used in the art and can facilitate introduction of DNA encoding the polypeptides of the present invention to desired target cells.

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a. Lipofection Delivery Systems

A vector can be introduced *in vivo* by lipofection. For the past decade, there has been increasing use of liposomes for encapsulation and transfection of nucleic acids *in vitro*.

5 Synthetic cationic lipids designed to limit the difficulties and dangers encountered with liposome mediated transfection can be used to prepare liposomes for *in vivo* transfection of a gene encoding a marker [Felgner, et. al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 84:7413-7417 (1987); see Mackey, et al., *Proc.*

10 *Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 85:8027-8031 (1988); Ulmer et al., *Science* 259:1745-1748 (1993)]. The use of cationic lipids may promote encapsulation of negatively charged nucleic acids, and also promote fusion with negatively charged cell membranes [Felgner and Ringold, *Science* 337:387-388 (1989)].

15 Particularly useful lipid compounds and compositions for transfer of nucleic acids are described in International Patent Publications WO95/18863 and WO96/17823, and in U.S. Patent No. 5,459,127. The use of lipofection to introduce exogenous genes into the specific organs *in vivo* has certain

20 practical advantages. Molecular targeting of liposomes to specific cells represents one area of benefit. It is clear that directing transfection to particular cell types would be particularly advantageous in a tissue with cellular heterogeneity, for example, pancreas, liver, kidney, and the

25 brain. Lipids may be chemically coupled to other molecules for the purpose of targeting [see Mackey, et. al., *supra*]. Targeted peptides, e.g., hormones or neurotransmitters, and proteins for example, antibodies, or non-peptide molecules could be coupled to liposomes chemically.

30 Other molecules are also useful for facilitating transfection of a nucleic acid *in vivo*, for example, a cationic oligopeptide (e.g., International Patent Publication WO95/21931), peptides derived from DNA binding proteins (e.g., International Patent Publication WO96/25508), or a

35 cationic polymer (e.g., International Patent Publication WO95/21931).

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b. Naked DNA Delivery Systems

It is also possible to introduce the vector *in vivo* as a naked DNA plasmid (see U.S. Patents 5,693,622, 5,589,466 and 5,580,859). Naked DNA vectors for gene therapy can be 5 introduced into the desired host cells by methods known in the art, e.g., transfection, electroporation, microinjection, transduction, cell fusion, DEAE dextran, calcium phosphate precipitation, use of a gene gun, or use of a DNA vector transporter [see, e.g., Wu et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:963-967 10 (1992); Wu and Wu, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:14621-14624 (1988); Hartmut et al., Canadian Patent Application No. 2,012,311, filed March 15, 1990; Williams et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:2726-2730 (1991)]. Receptor-mediated DNA delivery approaches can also be used [Curiel et al., *Hum. Gene Ther.* 15 3:147-154 (1992); Wu and Wu, *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:4429-4432 (1987)].

Methods to Identify Therapeutically Useful Variants of TRAF2TR

There are a variety of methods which may be used to 20 determine whether a TNF α regulated pathway is involved in a disease state and to determine the effect of the polypeptides of the present invention on these pathways. For example, to study the role of TRAF2TR in NF κ B regulation, electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA) analysis was performed using NF κ B 25 UAS as a probe (Figure 7). Nuclear extracts from cells overexpressing FL TRAF (lanes 3 and 4) show TNF α induced shifts significantly stronger in comparison to control (lanes 1 and 2). TRAF2TR overexpression blocks formation of NF κ B and, as a result, no shift has been detected in TNF α 30 stimulated cells (lanes 5 and 6). These results suggested strong inhibition of NF κ B formation as no shift band appeared in TNF α stimulated cells. Increased amount of NF κ B binding activity is present in cells overexpressing full-length TRAF2 after stimulation with TNF α (lane 4).

35 Experiments of the type discussed hereinabove can be utilized to determine whether a given pathway implicated in a disease state might be treated using the compositions of the

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present invention. In general, the experiments described above can be performed substituting TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD with an isolated or prepared variant of TRAF2 to determine if the variant has the ability to inhibit TNF α regulated pathways.

5 **Disease States Related to TNF α Regulated Pathways**

As discussed above, the present invention relates to the use of TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD and variants thereof to inhibit TNF α regulated pathways. In particular, the present invention relates to using the aforementioned to effectively 10 block TNF α induced activation of several transcriptional factors, including NFkB and AP-1. TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD and variants thereof are useful in inhibiting TNF α signal transduction pathways in pathologies which involve overproduction of TNF α and hyperactivation of NFkB dependent 15 genes. A variety of diseases appear to involve TNF α regulated pathways and the pathological basis for these diseases may involve overproduction of TNF α or hyperactivation of NFkB dependent genes. These diseases can be treated using the TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD proteins and their 20 variants.

Given the evidence that inflammatory processes contribute heavily to the pathology of all the major cardiovascular disease states and given that elevated TNF α levels are associated with these inflammatory processes, it 25 is believed that a variety of major cardiovascular disease states can be treated using the compositions and methods of the present invention. These diseases include, but are not limited to, cardiovascular disease states, including cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury following myocardial infarction, 30 coronary artery bypass surgery, cardiac transplantation or ischemia-reperfusion injury in the CNS following stroke; the progression and rupture of advanced coronary atherosclerotic plaques; the development and progression of congestive heart failure; and endothelial cell injury following balloon 35 angioplasty. In addition, the present invention can be used to prevent apoptotic cell death of myocardial cells during heart failure or infarction and to avoid myocyte apoptosis.

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By blocking TNF α receptor signaling, a gene therapy approach using TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD or a variant thereof can be used to treat these diseases. The use of TRAF2TD is preferred, given its highly effective inhibition of TNF α 5 regulated pathways.

Similarly, by blocking TNF α receptor signaling, gene therapy with TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD or a variant thereof can be used to treat other disease states where TNF α is involved in the pathogenesis. These disease states include, but are not 10 limited to, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, graft versus host disease, inflammatory bowel disease, non-insulin dependent diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases (e.g., Parkinson's disease).

Additionally, TRAF2TD can be used in various assays to 15 study the mechanisms of TRAF2-dependent signal transduction pathways.

Therapeutic Compositions and Dosages

In use, any vector, viral or non-viral, of the invention is preferably introduced *in vivo* in a pharmaceutically 20 acceptable vehicle or carrier. The phrase "pharmaceutically acceptable" refers to molecular entities and compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce a significant allergic or similar untoward reaction, such as gastric upset, dizziness and the like, when 25 administered to a human. Preferably, as used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable" means approved by a regulatory agency of the Federal or a state government or listed in the U.S. Pharmacopeia or other generally recognized pharmacopeia for use in animals, and more particularly in 30 humans. The term "carrier" refers to a diluent, adjuvant, excipient, or vehicle with which the compound is administered. Such pharmaceutical carriers can be sterile liquids, for example, water and oils, including those of petroleum, animal, vegetable or synthetic origin, for 35 example, peanut oil, soybean oil, mineral oil, sesame oil and the like. Water or aqueous solution saline solutions and

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aqueous dextrose and glycerol solutions are preferably employed as carriers, particularly for injectable solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers are described in "Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences" by E.W. Martin.

5 The present invention provides methods of treatment which comprise the administration to a human or other animal of an effective amount of a composition of the invention.

10 Effective amounts may vary, depending on the age, type and severity of the condition to be treated, body weight, desired duration of treatment, method of administration, and other parameters. Effective amounts are determined by a physician or other qualified medical professional.

15 It is believed that polypeptides according to the invention will be used most widely in doses of about 0.01 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg of body weight per day. Preferred doses are about 0.1 mg/kg to about 50 mg/kg, with doses of about 1 mg/kg to about 10 mg/kg of body weight per day being more preferred.

20 Recombinant viruses according to the invention are generally formulated and administered in the form of doses of between about 10^4 and about 10^{14} pfu. In the case of AAVs and adenoviruses, doses of from about 10^6 to about 10^{11} pfu are preferably used. The term "pfu" ("plaque-forming unit") corresponds to the infective power of a suspension of virions 25 and is determined by infecting an appropriate cell culture and measuring the number of plaques formed. The techniques for determining the pfu titre of a viral solution are well documented in the prior art.

30 The following examples are illustrative of the present invention.

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EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 1 - Isolation of cDNA Encoding TRAF2TR

The TRAF2 splice variant, TRAF2TR, was isolated during RT PCR cloning (Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, 1996) of full length TRAF2 using mRNA from the human Osteosarcoma cell line (OSA1). While using primers to produce full length TRAF2 cDNA, a smaller PCR product was observed. The fragment was excised and cloned independently. The 5' primer used for the RT PCR was ATG GCT GCA GCT AGC GTG ACC and the 3' primer 10 was TTA TAG CCC TGT CAG GTC CAC.

Upon sequencing of this smaller clone (TRAF2TR), an in-frame deletion of the codons encoding amino acid residues 123 to 201 were identified. Figures 4a and 4b compare the nucleic and amino acid sequences of full length TRAF2 and 15 TRAF2TR.

A variety of tissues in the body have been identified as sources of TRAF2TR mRNA and may be used to isolate the TRAF2TR mRNA using the protocol described above. To determine the tissue distribution of TRAF2TR, RT-PCR was 20 performed using a pair of primers outside of the spliced region. The primer on the 5' side of the deletion was: GGT GGA GAG CCT GCC GGC CG and the primer on the 3' side of the deletion was: GGC AGC CGA TGG CGT GGA ATC TG, and cDNA was generated using an oligo-dT primer from total RNA from 25 different tissues. The cDNAs were separated by agar electrophoresis and transferred to nitrocellulose. Hybridization was performed using a specific probe from the TRAF2 sequence adjacent to the 5' end of the spliced region (5' - GAT GCA CCT GGA AGG GGA CCC TGA AAT - 3'). This probe 30 recognizes both non-spliced and spliced variants of TRAF2. The expected size for the non-spliced variant (TRAF2FL) is 373 bp and for the spliced variant (TRAF2TR), 136 bp. Referring now to Figure 5, Lanes: 1-control TRAF2-FL cDNA; 2-control TRAF2 spliced variant cDNA; 3-Jurkat; 4-HeLa cell 35 line; 5-thymus; 6-placenta; 7-thymus; 8-spleen; 9-ovary.

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Western blot analysis of lysates from various cell sources does not unequivocally detect the presence of the truncated TRAF2 variant at the level of expressed protein. It appears that the high level expression and production of 5 the protein are limited developmentally, temporally, or controlled by an undefined mechanism, in a cell type dependent manner (e.g., B cell maturation in Germinal centers.).

The deletion in the splice variant TRAF2TR retains an 10 open reading frame and the 5' splice boundary matches canonical splice donor sequence. The deletion removes amino acid residues 123-201 of WT TRAF2, which encompasses the C-terminal portion of zinc finger domain 1 and all of zinc fingers 2 and 3 as well as the N-terminal residues of zinc 15 finger 4 (Figure 1). This deletion more than likely disrupts the function of the zinc finger region, and is similar to the deletion created by Takeuchi et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271(33), 19935-19942 (1996) which they report exhibits a dominant negative effect on TNF α induced NFkB activation.

20 **EXAMPLE 2 - Preparation of TRAF2TD**

It is known that deletion of N-amino terminal 87 amino acids (representing the ring fingers domain, see Figure 1) of TRAF2 creates a protein which acts as a dominant inhibitor (dominant negative) of TNF α dependent NFkB activation 25 (Takeuchi et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 271(33), 19935-19942 (1996)). In order to determine if an N-terminal deletion would affect the activity of TRAF2TR, a construct representing TRAF2TR with a deletion of 87 amino acids from the N-terminus of the protein (residues 1 to 87) was 30 prepared. To prepare this variant of TRAF2TR, TRAF2TR cDNA was used as a template for PCR using a 5' primer encompassing nucleotides 262 to 280 of the TRAF2 full length coding sequence (ATGAGTTGGCCTTCCCAGAT wherein the ATG codon was included to create a translation initiation site; the 3' 35 primer was TTA TAG CCC TGT CAG GTC CAC. The resulting construct begins at amino acid 88 of full length TRAF2 and contains the 123 to 201 amino acid deletion of TRAF2TR,

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providing a "double deletion" construct. The construct was verified by DNA sequencing and cloned into a mammalian expression vector (pcDNA3, Invitrogen).

EXAMPLE 3 - Transfection of HeLa Cells with TRAF2TR

5 To determine the effect of TRAF2TR on NF κ B activation, truncated as well as the full length (FL) TRAF2 were constructed with N-Myc affinity tags in a mammalian expression vector (pcDNA3, INVITROGEN). To prepare N-myc fusion constructs, a 5' PCR primer was synthesized containing
10 the sequence of the Myc tag with a starting methionine (MetGluGlnLysLeuIleSerGluGluAspLeuAsn) followed by the first 20 nucleotides of the TRAF2 cDNA: 5' - ATG GAG CAG AAA TTG ATT TCC GAG GAA GAT CTG AAC ATG GCT GCA GCT AGC GTG AC - 3'. The 3' PCR primer sequence was: 5' - TTAGAGCCCTGTCAGGTCCACAA
15 - 3'. The PCR product was purified and cloned into the pcDNA3 vector using standard techniques.

HeLa cells were transfected with pcDNA3-myc TRAF2 constructs using Lipofectamine (BRL, Gibco) reagent using the protocol provided by the reagent supplier. In brief, 4 ml of
20 Lipofectamine were mixed with 1 mg of the DNA in 1 ml of Serum free DMEM (BRL) media and 3 x 10⁵ cells in 60 mm Petri dish were incubated with that mixture overnight at 37°C at 5% CO₂ incubator. Twenty-four hours after transfection, cells were washed with phosphate buffered saline and lysed in 200
25 ml of an SDS electrophoresis sample buffer (SIGMA). Ten ml of the lysate was separated by electrophoresis and Western blotted to a nitrocellulose membrane. Immunostaining and ECL (AMERSHAM) detection was performed according to the recommendations of the antibody supplier.

30 Anti-Myc antibodies (BABC, Berkeley) detected proteins of the expected size in HeLa cells transfected with pcDNA-TRAF2FL and pcDNA-TRAF2TR (Fig. 6).

The results, shown in Figure 6, show the immunodetection of Myc-fused TRAF2FL and TRAF2TR in transfected HeLa cells.
35 HeLa cells were transfected with expression constructs of

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TRAF-FL and TRAF-TR using lipofectamine (Gibco BFL) and after 24 hours cells were lysed in SDS loading buffer. Myc-fusion proteins were detected using anti-myc Ab and ECL detection system. Lanes: 1-pcDNA3 vector; 2-myc-TRAF2FL; 3-myc-

5 TRAF2TR.

EXAMPLE 4 - NF_KB Reporter System

In order to determine the effect of TRAF2TR, TRAF2TD or variants of these polypeptides on NF_KB regulated gene expression, an NF_KB reporter system can be used, such as the 10 system utilized and described in Takeuchi et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 271(33), 19935-42 (1996). An NF_KB reporter activation system may be utilized in conjunction with appropriate cells, such as 293 cells, COS7 cells or HeLa cells. The cells would be transfected with different TRAF2 constructs, i.e., full 15 length TRAF2, TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD, using the lipofectamine protocol discussed in Example 3. The effect of the different TRAF2 fragments on activation of a cotransfected NF_KB reporter can then be compared to identify the most effective inhibitor species. As an example, TRAF2 constructs 20 comprising full length TRAF2, TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD, as well as variants of TRAF2TR and TRAF2TD, can be transfected into 293 cells and the level of NF_KB reporter activity monitored in the presence or absence of TNF α . The full-length TRAF2 would be expected to activate the cotransfected NF_KB reporter while 25 the other TRAF2 constructs would be expected to block TNF α mediated activation of the NF_KB reporter to varying degrees.

EXAMPLE 5 - Ex Vivo Treatment Methods

Methods of *ex vivo* gene therapy are known in the art and generally involve four stages. In the first stage, cells of 30 a given type are collected from the patient to be treated. In the second stage, the desired gene is transfected into the isolated cells. In the third stage, those cells which have taken up the desired gene are selected and grown. In the fourth stage, the cells are either infused or transplanted 35 back into the patient where they express the desired gene and treat the disease.

In the first stage of an *ex vivo* treatment method utilizing the present invention, cells are obtained from the patient. The choice of cell is based on a number of factors, primarily the specific disease being treated. Blocking 5 activation in these target cells would inhibit expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines and other proteins involved in the inflammatory processes linked to manifestation of a cardiovascular disease state.

In the second stage, the TRAF2TR or TRAF2TD or variant 10 cDNA is cloned into an appropriate mammalian expression vector. For transfection protocols involving lipofection, an expression vector, for example, pcDNA3 can be used. In a preferred embodiment, TRAF2TD, given its enhanced ability to inhibit TNF α binding effects, is cloned into pcDNA3 or 15 another suitable mammalian expression vector. The promoter utilized in the expression vector is chosen based on the type of cells being transfected and the desired method for regulating the level of expression. An appropriate promoter can be selected from among the promoters discussed *supra*. 20 For gene therapy of heart diseases, a promoter, for example, 2MHC (see Palermo et al., *Circ. Res.*, 78(3), 504-9 (1996)), MLC2 (see Sani, *Nature*, 314:283-286 (1985)), CARP (see Jeyaseelan et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 272(36), 22800-8 (1997)), 25 is inserted upstream of the TRAF2TD cDNA. The TRAF2TD cDNA containing expression vector is then used in a liposome-mediated transfection utilizing lipofectamine (BRL, Gibco) reagent using the supplied protocol. For transfection protocols using viral transduction, the second stage of the *ex vivo* treatment protocol utilizes a recombinant adenovirus 30 vector system. In this protocol, the TRAF2TD cDNA is cloned into an adenovirus expression vector, for example, adeno-quest pQBI-AdBN/NB (QUANTUM Biotechnologies Inc.). The adenoviral transfer vector now containing the TRAF2TD cDNA is then co-transfected with adenovirus viral DNA into 293 cells. 35 Following plaque purification and positive clone selection, recombinant adenovirus containing the TRAF2TD cDNA is amplified and then purified using conventional CsCl step gradient purification, followed by dialysis using an

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appropriate buffer, for example, phosphate buffered saline. The recombinant adenovirus is then used to transfect the target cells *ex vivo*.

Recombinant viruses according to the invention are 5 formulated and administered in the form of doses of between about 10^4 and about 10^{14} pfu. In the case of AAVs and adenoviruses, doses of from about 10^6 to about 10^{11} pfu are preferably used. The term "pfu" ("plaque-forming unit") corresponds to the infective power of a suspension of virions 10 and is determined by infecting an appropriate cell culture and measuring the number of plaques formed. The techniques for determining the pfu titre of a viral solution are well documented in the prior art.

In the third stage, the transfected cells obtained by 15 either lipofection or recombinant adenovirus infection are grown up in culture, selecting for those cells which have been transfected. Selection can be done in a variety of ways, including using a drug marker that provides for survival and growth of only those cells which have taken up 20 the expression vector.

In the fourth stage, the transfected cells are infused or transplanted directly into the patient, either near the tissue to be treated or at a location that allows the TRAF2TD cDNA product to be released into the circulation so as to 25 interact with the cells subject to activation by TNF α binding. Delivery means include, but are not limited to, direct injection, or delivery by catheter, infusion pump or stent.

EXAMPLE 6 - *In Vivo* Treatment Methods

30 Methods of *in vivo* treatment can utilize a variety of different viral vectors, including adenovirus vectors, adeno-associated virus vectors, and retrovirus vectors. In a preferred *in vivo* treatment method of the present invention, an adenovirus system is used to introduce the TRAF2TR or 35 TRAF2TD cDNA into host cells. Given the relatively greater

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ability of the TRAF2TD cDNA to inhibit TNF α binding activation, it is preferable to use the TRAF2TD cDNA in the adenovirus expression vector. In this method, the TRAF2TD cDNA is cloned into an adenovirus transfer vector, for 5 example, the adeno-Quest pQBI-AdBN/NB (QUANTUM Biotechnologies Inc.) or another adenovirus vector from those described *supra*. The promoter utilized in the expression vector is chosen based on the type of cells being transfected and the desired method for regulating the level of 10 expression. An appropriate promoter can be selected from among the promoters discussed *supra*.

The adenoviral transfer vector containing the desired promoter and the TRAF2TD cDNA would be then co-transfected with adenovirus viral DNA into 293 cells. Following plaque 15 purification and positive clone selection, recombinant adenovirus containing the TRAF2TD cDNA is amplified and then purified using conventional CsCl step gradient purification, followed by dialysis using an appropriate buffer, for example, phosphate buffered saline.

20 Prior to transfecting cells *in vivo*, viral particle titer is determined and experiments *in vitro* are performed to determine the level of protein expression and the tissue culture infectious dose (TCID50). Recombinant viruses according to the invention are formulated and administered in 25 the form of doses of between about 10^4 and about 10^{14} pfu. In the case of AAVs and adenoviruses, doses of from about 10^6 to about 10^{11} pfu are preferably used. The term "pfu" ("plaque-forming unit") corresponds to the infective power of a suspension of virions and is determined by infecting an 30 appropriate cell culture and measuring the number of plaques formed. The techniques for determining the pfu titre of a viral solution are well documented in the prior art.

The recombinant adenovirus would then be used to infect the patient at a dose of between about 10^6 to about 10^{11} pfu. 35 The recombinant adenovirus may be introduced by inhalation,

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by infusion, by surgical implantation, by direct injection or
delivery by catheter, infusion pump or stent.

We claim:

1. A DNA sequence encoding TRAF2TR comprising the sequence as shown in Figure 2a.
2. A DNA sequence encoding TRAF2TD comprising the sequence as shown in Figure 3a.
3. The DNA of Claim 1 wherein said DNA is a cDNA.
4. The DNA of Claim 2 wherein said DNA is a cDNA.
5. An isolated and purified TRAF2TR polypeptide which is capable of inhibiting TNF α -regulated pathways and comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 2b.
6. A TRAF2TD polypeptide which is capable of inhibiting TNF α -regulated pathways and comprising an amino acid sequence as shown in Figure 3b.
7. A method of inhibiting TNF α -regulated pathways in a patient comprising introducing into the body of said patient a composition capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways.
8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition is an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TR polypeptide.
9. The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition is an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD polypeptide.
10. The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition comprises a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. The method of Claim 7 wherein said composition comprises a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A method of inhibiting diseases involving overproduction of TNF α comprising introducing into the body of a patient a composition capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein said composition comprises an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TR.

14. The method of Claim 12 wherein said composition comprises an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD.

15. The method of Claim 12 wherein said composition is a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. The method of Claim 12 wherein said composition is a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. A method of inhibiting TNF α pathologies involving hyperactivation of nuclear factor $\kappa\beta$ (NFKB) dependent genes comprising introducing into a patient a composition capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein said composition is an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TR.

19. The method of Claim 17 wherein said composition is an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD.

20. The method of Claim 17 wherein said composition is a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

21. The method of Claim 17 wherein said composition is a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. A method of inhibiting inflammatory processes involving TNF α comprising introducing into a patient's body a composition capable of inhibiting TNF α regulated pathways.

23. The method of Claim 22 wherein said composition is an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TR.

24. The method of Claim 22 wherein said composition is an expression vector capable of expressing TRAF2TD.

25. The method of Claim 22 wherein said composition is a TRAF2TR polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. The method of Claim 22 wherein said composition is a TRAF2TD polypeptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. The method of Claim 22 wherein said inflammatory processes involving TNF α is selected from the group consisting of Crohn's disease, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, graft versus host disease, inflammatory bowel disease, non-insulin dependent diabetes and neurogenerative diseases.

28. The method of Claim 22 wherein said inflammatory process involving TNF α is a cardiovascular disease.

29. The method of Claim 28 wherein said cardiovascular disease is selected from the group consisting of (a) cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury following myocardial infarction, coronary artery bypass surgery, cardiac transplantation or ischemia-reperfusion injury in the CNS following stroke; (b) the progression and rupture of advanced coronary atherosclerotic plaques; (c) the development and progression

of congestive heart failure; (d) endothelial cell injury following balloon angioplasty; and (e) apoptotic cell death of myocardial cells.

30. A DNA sequence encoding a TRAF2TR/2TD variant.

31. The DNA sequence of Claim 30 wherein said DNA sequence includes conservative amino acid substitutions.

32. A TRAF2TR/2TD variant polypeptide which is capable of inhibiting TNF α -regulated pathways.

Structure of TRAF2 and the alternatively spliced variant, TRAF2-TR.

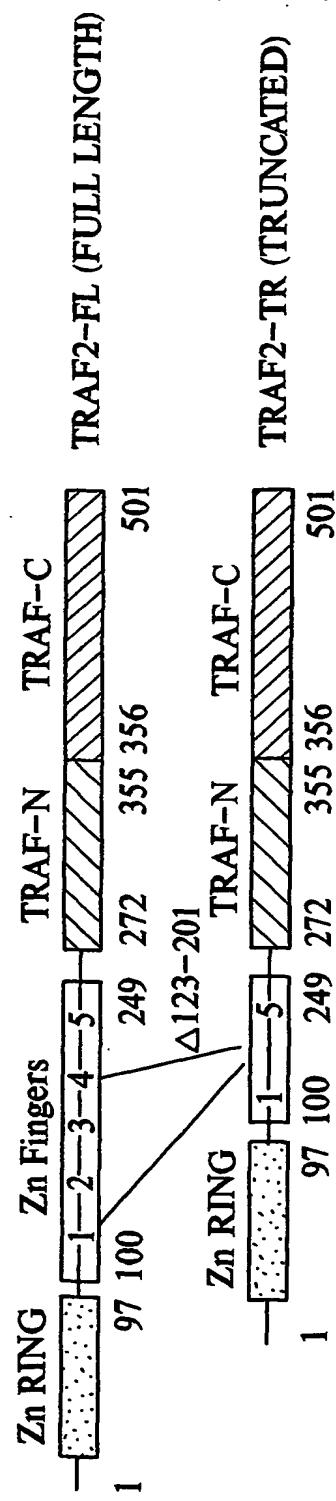


FIG. 1

2 / 13

1 MAAASVTPPGSIELLQPGFSKTLGKLEAKYLCASACRNVLRPPFQAQCCGHRYCSFCLASILSSGPQNCAACVHEGTYEE
GISILESSSAFPDNAARREVESLPAVCP SDGCTWKGTLLKEYEFQDHVKTKGKCRVPCRFHAIGCLETVEGEKQQEHEVQW
LREHLMILLSSVLEAKPILLGDQSHAGSELLQRCESLEKTTATFENIVCVLNREVERVAMTAEAACSRQHRLDQDKIEALSS
KVQQQLERSIGLKDLMADLEQKVLEMEAATYDGVFIWKISDFARKLQEAVAGRIPAIIFSPAFTSRYGYKMCRLIYLNQD
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AKNSYVRRDDAIFFIKAIVDILTG 422

FIG. 2B

3 / 13

1 ATGGCTGGAGCTAGGGTGACCCCCCTGGACTACAGCCGGCTTCTCCAAAGACCCCTCCTGGGGACCAA
GCTGGAAAGCCAAAGTACCTGTGCTCGGCCTCCAGAAACGTCTCCAGGCCACTGGCCAGTGTGGCACCCGGTACT
GCTCCTTCTGCTGGCCAGCATCCTCAAGCTCTGGCTCAGAAACTGTGCTGCCCTGTGTTCACAGGGCATATATGAAAGAA
GGCATTTCTATTTAGAAAGCAGTTCGGCCTTCCAGATAATGCTGCCCGAGGGAGGTGGAGGCCGCTGGCTGCGCGTCTG
TCCCAAGTGTATGGATGCCCTGGAAAGGGACCCCTGAAGAAATACGAGTTTCAGGGACCAACGTCAAGACTGTGGCAAGTGT
GAGTCCTTGTGAGATTCCACGCCATCGGCTGCCAGCGGTAGAGGTGAGAAACAGCAGGACGAGGTGGCAGTGG
CTGGGGAGGACCTGGCCATGCTACTGAGCTCGGTGGAGGCCAAAGCCCTCTGGAGAACAGAGCCACGGGGTTC
AGAGCTCCTGCAAGAGGTGGAGAGGGCTGGAGAAAGAACGGCCACACTTTGAGAACATRTGTCTGGTCCCTGAAACGGGAGG
TGAGAGGGTGGCCATGACTGCCAGGGCCTGGAGAGGGCTGGAGAAAGAACACAAGATTGAAAGCCCTGAGTAGGC
AAGTGGCAGCAGGAGGAGGATGGCCTCAAGGACCTGGCTGACTTGGAGGCAAGGGTCTGGAGATGGA
GGCATCCACCTACGATGGGTCTTCATCTGGAAAGATCTCAGACTTCGCCAGGAAGCTCCAGGAAGGCTGGCTGGCCGCA
TACCCGCCATCTTCTCCAGGCCCTCTACACCCAGGTACGGCTAACAGGAGTGTCTGGTATCTACCTGAAACGGCGAC
GGCACCGGGCAGGAACACACCTGTCCTCTTGTGGTGTATGAAGGGCCCGAATGACGCCCTGCTGGTGGCCCT
CAACCAGAGGTGACCTTAATGCTGCTGACCAATAACCGGGAGCACGTGATTGACGCCCTCAGGGCGACGTGACTT
CATCCTTCTCAAGGGCAGTCAGGACATGAACATGGCAAGGGCTGCCCTCTTCAGGACCTGACAGGGCTCTAA 1269
GCAAGAATTCTACGTGGGGACGATGCCATCTTCATCAAGGCCATTGTGGACCTGACAGGGCTCTAA 1269

FIG. 2A

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MSSAFTP DNAARREVESLPAVCP SDGCTWKGTLKEYEFQDHVKTCGKCRVP CRFHAIGCLETVEGEKQQEHENVQW
LREHLMILLSSVLEAKPLLG DQSHAGSELLQRCESLEKKTATFENIVCVLNREVERVAMTAEACSRQHRLDQDKIEALSS
KVQQQLERSIGLKDLMADLEQKVLEMEA STYDGVFIWKISDFARKLQEAVAGRIPAIFSPAFTSRYGYKMCLRIYLNQD
GTGRGTHLSSLFFVVMKGPNDA LLRWP FNQKVTLMLLDQMNREHVIDAFRPDVTS SFFQRPVNDMNIASGCPPLFCPVS KME
AKNSYVRDDAIFIKAIVDLTGL

FIG. 3B

5 / 13

ATGAGTTCGGCTTCCAGATAATGCTGCCGGAGGGTGGAGCCCTGGCGTCTG
TCCCAGTGTGGATGCACCTGGAAAGGGGACCCCTGAAAGATAACGAGTTCAAGACTGTGGCAAGTGTC
GAGTCCCTTGCAAGATTCCACGCCATCGGCTGAGACGGCTGGCTGAGAACAGCAGGAGCACGGAGGTGGCAGTGG
CTGGGGAGGACCTGGCATCTGAGCTGGCTACTGAGCTGGGGCAAAAGCCCCCTGGAGAACCCAGAGCCACGGGGGTC
AGAGCTCCTGCAGGGTGCAGAGGGCTGGAGAACGGCCACATTGAGAACATTGTCTGGTCTGAACCGGGAGG
TGAGAGGGCATGACTGCCAGGGCCTGGCAGGCCAGGGCTGGAGCAAGACAAGATTGAAGCCCTGAGTAGC
AAGGTGCAAGGGTGGAGGGAGGCAATTGGCCTCAAGGACCTGGGATGGCTGACTTGGAGGAGGTCTTGAGATGGA
GGCATCCACCTACGATGGGTCTCATCTGAAAGATCTCAGACTTCAGACTTcGCCAGGAAGGCTCCAGGAAGGCTGTGGCTGGCCCA
TACCCGGCATCTTCTCCAGCCCTCTACACCAAGCAGGTACAAGATGTGTCTGCGTATCTACCTGAACGGCGAC
GGCACCGGGAGAAACACCTGTCCCTCTTGTGGTGTGATGAAGGGCCGAATGACGCCCTGCTGGCTGGCCCT
CAACCAGGGTGCCTTAATGCTGCTGACCAATAACGGGAGCACGTGATTGACGCCCTCAGGCCCTCAGGGCGACGTGACTT
CATCCTCTTCAAGGGCAGTCAGAACATGAAACATCGCAAGGACATGCTGGCCCTCTTCTGCCCCGTCTCCAAAGATGGAG
GCAAAGAATTCCCTACGGTGGGAGCGATGCCATCTCATCAAGGCCATTGTGGACCTGACAGGGCTCTAA

FIG. 3A

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1	50
TRAF2-TR	GAATTCCGGC GCGCTGCGAC CGTTGGGCT TTGTTCGCGG GGGTCACAGC
TRAF2-FL	GAATTCCGGC GCGCTGCGAC CGTTGGGCT TTGTTCGCGG GGGTCACAGC
51	100
TRAF2-TR	TCTCATGGCT GCAGCTAGCG TGACCCCCCCC TGGCTCCCTG GAGTTGCTAC
TRAF2-FL	TCTCATGGCT GCAGCTAGCG TGACCCCCCCC TGGCTCCCTG GAGTTGCTAC
101	150
TRAF2-TR	AGCCCGGCTT CTCCAAGACC CTCCTGGGA CCAAGCTGGA AGCCAAGTAC
TRAF2-FL	AGCCCGGCTT CTCCAAGACC CTCCTGGGA CCAAGCTGGA AGCCAAGTAC
151	200
TRAF2-TR	CTGTGCTCCG CCTGCAGAAA CGTCCTCCGC AGGCCCTTCC AGGCGCAGTG
TRAF2-FL	CTGTGCTCCG CCTGCAGAAA CGTCCTCCGC AGGCCCTTCC AGGCGCAGTG
201	250
TRAF2-TR	TGGCCACCGG TACTGCTCCT TCTGCCTGGC CAGCATCCTC AGCTCTGGC
TRAF2-FL	TGGCCACCGG TACTGCTCCT TCTGCCTGGC CAGCATCCTC AGCTCTGGC
251	300
TRAF2-TR	CTCAGAACTG TGCTGCCTGT GTTCACGAGG GCATATATGA AGAAGGCATT
TRAF2-FL	CTCAGAACTG TGCTGCCTGT GTTCACGAGG GCATATATGA AGAAGGCATT
301	350
TRAF2-TR	TCTATTTAG AAAGCAGTTC GGCTTCCCA GATAATGCTG CCCGCAGGGA
TRAF2-FL	TCTATTTAG AAAGCAGTTC GGCTTCCCA GATAATGCTG CCCGCAGGGA
351	400
TRAF2-TR	GGTGGAGAGC CTGCCGGCCG TCTGTCCCAG TGATGGATGC ACCTGGAAGG
TRAF2-FL	GGTGGAGAGC CTGCCGGCCG TCTGTCCCAG TGATGGATGC ACCTGGAAGG
401	450
TRAF2-TR	GGACCCTGAA AGAATACGAG -----
TRAF2-FL	GGACCCTGAA AGAATACGAG AGCTGCCACG AAGGCCGCTG CCCGCTCATG
451	500
TRAF2-TR	-----
TRAF2-FL	CTGACCGAAT GTCCCGCGTG TAAAGGCCTG GTCCGCCCTG GTGAAAAGGA
501	550
TRAF2-TR	-----
TRAF2-FL	GCGCCACCTG GAGCACGAGT GCCCGGAGAG AAGCCTGAGC TGCCGGCATT

FIG. 4A-1

	551	7/13		600
TRAF2-TR	-----			
TRAF2-FL	GCCGGGCACC CTGCTGCGGA GCAGACGTGA AGGCGCACCA CGAGGTCTGC			
	601			650
TRAF2-TR	-----			
TRAF2-FL	CCCAAGTTCC CCTTAACCTTG TGACGGCTGC GGCAAGAAGA AGATCCCCCG			
	651			700
TRAF2-TR	-----TTT CAGGACCACG TCAAGACTTG TGGCAAGTGT CGAGTCCCTT			
TRAF2-FL	GGAGAAGTTT CAGGACCACG TCAAGACTTG TGGCAAGTGT CGAGTCCCTT			
	701			750
TRAF2-TR	GCAGATTCCA CGCCATCGGC TGCCTCGAGA CGGTAGAGGG TGAGAAACAG			
TRAF2-FL	GCAGATTCCA CGCCATCGGC TGCCTCGAGA CGGTAGAGGG TGAGAAACAG			
	751			800
TRAF2-TR	CAGGAGCACG AGGTGCAGTG GCTGCGGGAG CACCTGGCCA TGCTACTGAG			
TRAF2-FL	CAGGAGCACG AGGTGCAGTG GCTGCGGGAG CACCTGGCCA TGCTACTGAG			
	801			850
TRAF2-TR	CTCGGTGCTG GAGGCAAAGC CCCTCTTGGG AGACCAGAGC CACGCGGGGT			
TRAF2-FL	CTCGGTGCTG GAGGCAAAGC CCCTCTTGGG AGACCAGAGC CACGCGGGGT			
	851			900
TRAF2-TR	CAGAGCTCCT GCAGAGGTGC GAGAGCCTGG AGAAGAAGAC GGCCACTTT			
TRAF2-FL	CAGAGCTCCT GCAGAGGTGC GAGAGCCTGG AGAAGAAGAC GGCCACTTT			
	901			950
TRAF2-TR	GAGAACATTG TCTGCGTCCT GAACCGGGAG GTGGAGAGGG TGGCCATGAC			
TRAF2-FL	GAGAACATTG TCTGCGTCCT GAACCGGGAG GTGGAGAGGG TGGCCATGAC			
	951			1000
TRAF2-TR	TGCCGAGGCC TGCAGCCGGC AGCACCGGCT GGACCAAGAC AAGATTGAAG			
TRAF2-FL	TGCCGAGGCC TGCAGCCGGC AGCACCGGCT GGACCAAGAC AAGATTGAAG			
	1001			1050
TRAF2-TR	CCCTGAGTAG CAAGGTGCAG CAGCTGGAGA GGAGCATGG CCTCAAGGAC			
TRAF2-FL	CCCTGAGTAG CAAGGTGCAG CAGCTGGAGA GGAGCATGG CCTCAAGGAC			
	1051			1100
TRAF2-TR	CTGGCGATGG CTGACTTGGG GCAGAAGGTC TTGGAGATGG AGGCATCCAC			
TRAF2-FL	CTGGCGATGG CTGACTTGGG GCAGAAGGTC AGGCCCTTCC AGGCGCAGTG			

FIG. 4A-2

	1101	8 / 13	1150
TRAF2-TR	CTACGATGGG	GTCTTCATCT	GGAAAGATCTC
TRAF2-FL	TGGCCACCGG	TACTGCTCCT	TCTGCCTGGC
			AGACTTTCCC
			AGGAAGCTCC
	1151		1200
TRAF2-TR	AGGAAGCTGT	GGCTGGCCGC	ATACCCGCCA
TRAF2-FL	AGGAAGCTGT	GGCTGGCCGC	ATACCCGCCA
			TCTTCTCCCC
			AGCCTTCTAC
	1201		1250
TRAF2-TR	ACCAGCAGGT	ACGGCTACAA	GATGTGTCTG
TRAF2-FL	ACCAGCAGGT	ACGGCTACAA	GATGTGTCTG
			CGTATCTACC
			TGAACGGCGA
	1251		1300
TRAF2-TR	CGGCACCGGG	CGAGGAACAC	ACCTGTCCCT
TRAF2-FL	CGGCACCGGG	CGAGGAACAC	ACCTGTCCCT
			CTTCTTGTG
			GTGATGAAGG
	1301		1350
TRAF2-TR	GCCCGAATGA	CGCCCTGCTG	CGGTGGCCCT
TRAF2-FL	GCCCGAATGA	CGCCCTGCTG	CGGTGGCCCT
			TCAACCAGAA
			GGTGACCTTA
	1351		1400
TRAF2-TR	ATGCTGCTCG	ACCAGAATAA	CCGGGAGCAC
TRAF2-FL	ATGCTGCTCG	ACCAGAATAA	CCGGGAGCAC
			GTGATTGACG
			CCTTCAGGCC
	1401		1450
TRAF2-TR	CGACGTGACT	TCATCCTCTT	TTCAGAGGCC
TRAF2-FL	CGACGTGACT	TCATCCTCTT	TTCAGAGGCC
			AGTCAACGAC
			ATGAACATCG
	1451		1500
TRAF2-TR	CAAGCGGCTG	CCCCCTCTTC	TGCCCGTCT
TRAF2-FL	CAAGCGGCTG	CCCCCTCTTC	TGCCCGTCT
			CCAAGATGGA
			GGCAAAGAAT
	1501		1550
TRAF2-TR	TCCTACGTGC	GGGACGATGC	CATCTTCATC
TRAF2-FL	TCCTACGTGC	GGGACGATGC	CATCTTCATC
			AAGGCCATTG
			TGGACCTGAC
	1551		1600
TRAF2-TR	AGGGCTCTAA	CTGCCCCCTA	CTGGTGTCTG
TRAF2-FL	AGGGCTCTAA	CTGCCCCCTA	CTGGTGTCTG
			GGGGTTGGGG
			GCAGCCAGGC
	1601		1650
TRAF2-TR	ACAGCCGGCT	CACGGAGGGG	CCACCAACGCT
TRAF2-FL	ACAGCCGGCT	CACGGAGGGG	CCACCAACGCT
			GGGCCAGGGT
			CTCACTGTAC

FIG. 4A-3

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	1651	1700
TRAF2-TR	AAGTGGGCAG GGGCCCCGCT TGGGCGCTTG GGAGGGTGTC GGCCCTGCAGC	
TRAF2-FL	AAGTGGGCAG GGGCCCCGCT TGGGCGCTTG GGAGGGTGTC GGCCCTGCAGC	
	1701	1750
TRAF2-TR	CAAGTTCACT GTCACGGGGG AAGGAGCCAC CAGCCAGTCC TCAGATTTC	
TRAF2-FL	CAAGTTCACT GTCACGGGGG AAGGAGCCAC CAGCCAGTCC TCAGATTTC	
	1751	1800
TRAF2-TR	GAGACTGCAGG AGGGGCTTGG CAGACGGTCT TAGCCAAGGG CTGTGGTGGC	
TRAF2-FL	GAGACTGCAGG AGGGGCTTGG CAGACGGTCT TAGCCAAGGG CTGTGGTGGC	
	1801	1850
TRAF2-TR	ATTGGCCGAG GGTCTTCGGG TGCTTCCCAG CACAAGCTGC CCTTGCTGTC	
TRAF2-FL	ATTGGCCGAG GGTCTTCGGG TGCTTCCCAG CACAAGCTGC CCTTGCTGTC	
	1851	1900
TRAF2-TR	CTGTGCAGTG AAGGGAGAGG CCCTGGGTGG GGGACACTCA GAGTGGGAGC	
TRAF2-FL	CTGTGCAGTG AAGGGAGAGG CCCTGGGTGG GGGACACTCA GAGTGGGAGC	
	1901	1950
TRAF2-TR	ACATCCCAGC AGTCCCCATG TAGCAGGAGC ACAGTGGATG GCCTTGTGTC	
TRAF2-FL	ACATCCCAGC AGTCCCCATG TAGCAGGAGC ACAGTGGATG GCCTTGTGTC	
	1951	2000
TRAF2-TR	CCTCGGGCAT GACAGGCAGA AACGAGGGCT GCTCCAGGAG AAGGGCCTCC	
TRAF2-FL	CCTCGGGCAT GACAGGCAGA AACGAGGGCT GCTCCAGGAG AAGGGCCTCC	
	2001	2050
TRAF2-TR	TGCTGGCCAG AGCAAGGAAG GCTGAGCAGC TTGGTTCTCC CCTCTGGCCC	
TRAF2-FL	TGCTGGCCAG AGCAAGGAAG GCTGAGCAGC TTGGTTCTCC CCTCTGGCCC	
	2051	2100
TRAF2-TR	CTGGAGAGAA GGGAGCATTG CTAGACCCCT GGGTGCTTGT CTGCACAGAG	
TRAF2-FL	CTGGAGAGAA GGGAGCATTG CTAGACCCCT GGGTGCTTGT CTGCACAGAG	
	2101	2150
TRAF2-TR	CTCTGGTCTG TGCCACCTTG GCCAGGCTGG CTGTGGGAGG GTCTGGTCCC	
TRAF2-FL	CTCTGGTCTG TGCCACCTTG GCCAGGCTGG CTGTGGGAGG GTCTGGTCCC	
	2151	2200
TRAF2-TR	ACGCCGCCTC TGCTCAGACA CTGTGTGGGA GGGCACAGCA CAGCTGCAGGG	
TRAF2-FL	ACGCCGCCTC TGCTCAGACA CTGTGTGGGA GGGCACAGCA CAGCTGCAGGG	

FIG. 4A-4

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	2201	2250
TRAF2-TR	TAAAAGTGTGA GAGCTTGCCA TCCAGCTCAC GAAGACAGAG TTATTAAACC	
TRAF2-FL	TAAAAGTGTGA GAGCTTGCCA TCCAGCTCAC GAAGACAGAG TTATTAAACC	
	2251 2262	
TRAF2-TR	ATTACAAATC TC	
TRAF2-FL	ATTACAAATC TC	

FIG. 4A-5

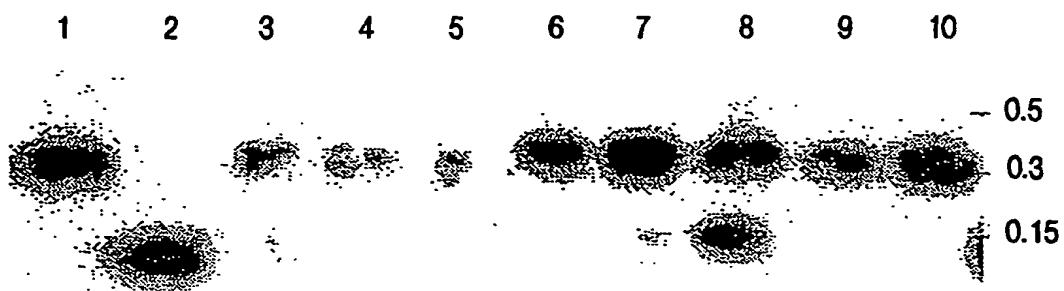
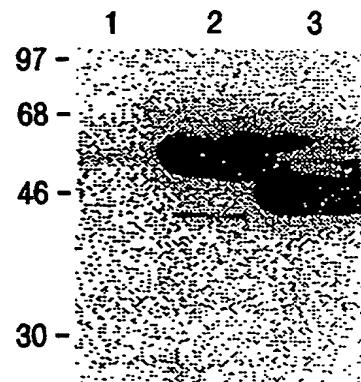
501

h-traf2-f1
h-traf2-tr
Consensus

FIG. 4B

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**FIG. 5****FIG. 6**

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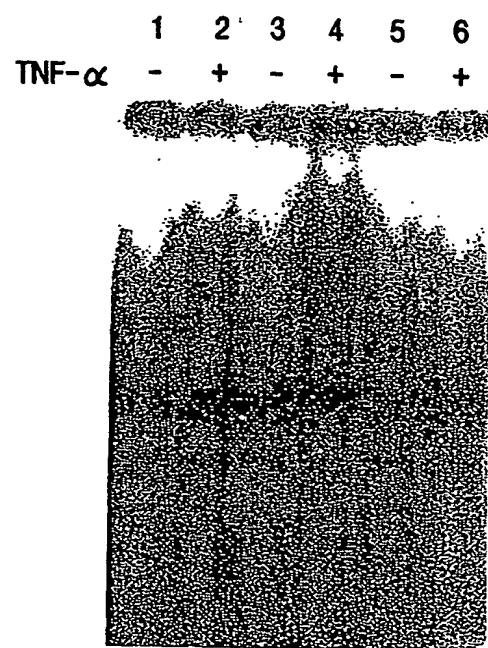


FIG. 7

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Searfoss III, George H.
Pagnoni, Marco F.
Ivashchenko, Yuri D.
Guo, Kun
Clark, Kenneth L.

<120> VARIANTS OF TRAF2 WHICH ACT AS AN INHIBITOR OF
TNF-ALPHA (TNFa) SIGNALING PATHWAY

<130> 22816 PCT

<140> As yet unassigned
<141> 2000-04-06

<150> 60/131940
<151> 1999-04-30

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ctccgcaggc cttccaggc gcagtgtggc caccggtaact gctccttctg cctggccagc 180
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35 40 45

Cys Gly His Arg Tyr Cys Ser Phe Cys Leu Ala Ser Ile Leu Ser Ser
50 55 60

Gly Pro Gln Asn Cys Ala Ala Cys Val His Glu Gly Ile Tyr Glu Glu
65 70 75 80

Gly Ile Ser Ile Leu Glu Ser Ser Ser Ala Phe Pro Asp Asn Ala Ala
85 90 95

Arg Arg Glu Val Glu Ser Leu Pro Ala Val Cys Pro Ser Asp Gly Cys
100 105 110

Thr Trp Lys Gly Thr Leu Lys Glu Tyr Glu Phe Gln Asp His Val Lys
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Thr Cys Gly Lys Cys Arg Val Pro Cys Arg Phe His Ala Ile Gly Cys
130 135 140

Leu Glu Thr Val Glu Gly Glu Lys Gln Gln Glu His Glu Val Gln Trp
145 150 155 160

Leu Arg Glu His Leu Ala Met Leu Leu Ser Ser Val Leu Glu Ala Lys
165 170 175

Pro Leu Leu Gly Asp Gln Ser His Ala Gly Ser Glu Leu Leu Gln Arg
180 185 190

Cys Glu Ser Leu Glu Lys Lys Thr Ala Thr Phe Glu Asn Ile Val Cys
195 200 205

Val Leu Asn Arg Glu Val Glu Arg Val Ala Met Thr Ala Glu Ala Cys
210 215 220

Ser Arg Gln His Arg Leu Asp Gln Asp Lys Ile Glu Ala Leu Ser Ser
225 230 235 240

Lys Val Gln Gln Leu Glu Arg Ser Ile Gly Leu Lys Asp Leu Ala Met
245 250 255

Ala Asp Leu Glu Gln Lys Val Leu Glu Met Glu Ala Ser Thr Tyr Asp
260 265 270

Gly Val Phe Ile Trp Lys Ile Ser Asp Phe Ala Arg Lys Leu Gln Glu
275 280 285

Ala Val Ala Gly Arg Ile Pro Ala Ile Phe Ser Pro Ala Phe Tyr Thr
290 295 300

Ser Arg Tyr Gly Tyr Lys Met Cys Leu Arg Ile Tyr Leu Asn Gly Asp
305 310 315 320

Gly Thr Gly Arg Gly Thr His Leu Ser Leu Phe Phe Val Val Met Lys
325 330 335

Gly Pro Asn Asp Ala Leu Leu Arg Trp Pro Phe Asn Gln Lys Val Thr
340 345 350

Leu Met Leu Leu Asp Gln Asn Asn Arg Glu His Val Ile Asp Ala Phe
355 360 365

Arg Pro Asp Val Thr Ser Ser Phe Gln Arg Pro Val Asn Asp Met
370 375 380

Asn Ile Ala Ser Gly Cys Pro Leu Phe Cys Pro Val Ser Lys Met Glu
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Ala Lys Asn Ser Tyr Val Arg Asp Asp Ala Ile Phe Ile Lys Ala Ile
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Val Asp Leu Thr Gly Leu
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Leu Pro Ala Val Cys Pro Ser Asp Gly Cys Thr Trp Lys Gly Thr Leu
20 25 30

Lys Glu Tyr Glu Phe Gln Asp His Val Lys Thr Cys Gly Lys Cys Arg
35 40 45

Val Pro Cys Arg Phe His Ala Ile Gly Cys Leu Glu Thr Val Glu Gly
50 55 60

Glu Lys Gln Gln Glu His Glu Val Gln Trp Leu Arg Glu His Leu Ala
65 70 75 80

Met Leu Leu Ser Ser Val Leu Glu Ala Lys Pro Leu Leu Gly Asp Gln
85 90 95

Ser His Ala Gly Ser Glu Leu Leu Gln Arg Cys Glu Ser Leu Glu Lys
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/09178

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/64; C07K 14/435; A61K 38/16, 38/17, 48/00

US CL :536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 536/350; 536/23.1, 23.5; 514/2, 8, 12, 44

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	BRINK et al. Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor (TNFR)-associated Factor 2A (TRAF2A), a TRAF2 Splice Variant with an Extended RING Finger Domain That Inhibits TNFR2-mediated NF- κ B Activation. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 13 February 1998, Vol. 273, No. 7, pages 4129-4134.	1-32
A	TAKEUCHI et al. Distinct Domains for Nuclear Factor- κ B Activation and Association with Tumor Necrosis Factor Signaling Proteins. The Journal of Biological Chemistry. 16 August 1996, Vol. 271, No. 33, pages 19935-19942.	1-32

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* "T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
* "X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
* "Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
* "&"	document member of the same patent family
* "P"	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

14 AUGUST 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

30 AUG 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

PREMA MERTZ

Telephone No. (703) 308-0196

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/09178

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

WEST, CAS ONLINE, MEDLINE, CAPLUS

search terms:tumor necrosis factor receptor associated factors, TRAF, polypeptide, nucleic acid, DNA , polynucleotide, method, treatment, therapy, administer